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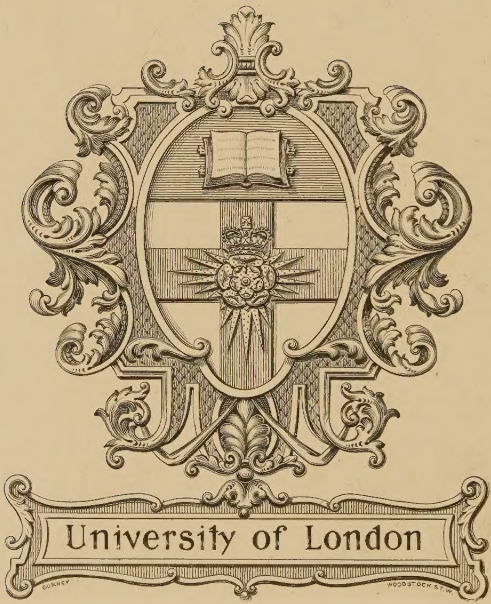
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THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(AUTHORISED EDITION),

FOURTH SERIES.

SECOND SESSION OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

OF THE

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

1 EDWARD VII.

VOLUME XCI.

COMPRISING THE PERIOD FROM THE TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY OF
FEBRUARY TO THE FOURTEENTH DAY OF MARCH,

1901.

THIRD VOLUME OF SESSION.

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PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

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Elland Gas Bill [H.L.].—Committed; the Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 1

Albion Steam Coal Company Bill [H.L.].—Freshwater, Yarmouth, and Newport Railway Bill [H.L.].—Committed 1

Charing Cross, Hammersmith and District Electric Railway Bill, [H.L.]; King's Road Railway Bill [H.L.].—Read 2ª (according to order) .. 1

Aspatria, Silloth, and District Water Bill [H.L.]; Handsworth Urban District Council Bill [H.L.]; King's Norton and Northfield Urban District Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Llanelly Harbour Bill [H.L.]; Aire and Calder Navigation Bill [H.L.]; Bournemouth Corporation Bill [H.L.]. —Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills, viz.:—E. Scarbrough, E. Carlisle, L. Monteagle of Brandon, L. Northbourne, L. Stanmore (chairman); agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly. The Committee to meet on Wednesday next, at Eleven of the clock; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills 2

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.—Report by the Chairman of Committees of the House of Lords and the Chairman of Ways and Means in the House of Commons, That the General Orders not complied with in respect of the following Provisional Orders—Ayr County Buildings; Paisley District Tramways—ought to be dispensed with, and the Orders allowed to proceed.—(Signed) MORLEY, JAMES W. LOWTHER 3

Laid before the House, and ordered to lie on the Table.

March 15.] Page

PRESENCE OF THE SOVEREIGN IN PARLIAMENT.—Message from the Commons that they have come to the following resolution, to which they desire the concurrence of this House: That it is expedient that a Select Committee be appointed to join with a Committee of the Lords to consider the accommodation available in the House of Lords when the Sovereign is personally present in Parliament, and the advisability of substituting Westminster Hall on such an occasion for the House of Lords. The said Message to be considered on Monday next 3

THE READING CLERK AND CLERK OF OUT-DOOR COMMITTEES.—The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that by virtue of the power granted to him as Lord Chancellor by the Statute 5th George IV., Chapter 82, Section 4, he had, on the recommendation of the Lord Chief Justice, appointed Edward Hall Alderson, Esquire, to be their Lordships' Reading Clerk and Clerk of Out-door Committees.

Moved, "That this House do approve of the appointment of Edward Hall Alderson, Esquire, as their Lordships' Reading Clerk and Clerk of Out-door Committees."

Lord Tweedmouth 3
The Chairman of Committees (*The Earl of Morley*) 4
The Lord Chancellor (*The Earl of Halsbury*) 5

On Question, resolved in the affirmative.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ARMY:—

I. Memorandum by Field Marshal Viscount Wolseley, addressed to the Marquess of Salisbury, relative to the working of the Order in Council of the 21st November, 1895.

II. Minutes by the Marquess of Lansdowne and Mr. Brodrick on Lord Wolseley's Memorandum.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table. 5

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (INCORPORATION OF WALLSEND).—Charter of incorporation of the borough of Wallsend, dated 12th March, 1901: Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 5

THE WAR OFFICE—LORD WOLSELEY'S MEMORANDUM TO LORD SALISBURY:—

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Moved:—"That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty for all Papers written by the Viscount Wolseley bearing upon certain allegations made by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and upon the advice given by the said Viscount when Commander-in-Chief of the Army in regard to the War in South Africa."—(*The Viscount Wolseley.*)

On Question, their Lordships divided: Contents, 38; Not-Contents, 2. Resolved in the negative.

County Courts (Ireland) Bill. [H.L.] [SECOND READING.]—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

The Lord Chancellor for Ireland (*Lord Ashbourne*) 45

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2*a*."—(*Lord Ashbourne.*)

On Question, agreed to. Bill read 2*a* accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday next.

House adjourned at five minutes past Seven of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRIDAY, 15TH MARCH, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

STANDING ORDERS AMENDMENT (By Order).—Standing Order 134C read.

The Chairman of Ways and Means (*Mr. J. W. Lowther, Cumberland, Penrith*) 45

Standing Order amended, in line 3, by inserting, after the word "affected," the letter (A).

In line 5, by inserting, after the word "county," the words "or (B) by the provisions of any Bill proposing to authorise the construction or reconstruction of any tramway along any main road, or along any other road to the maintenance and repair of which the county council contributes, within the administrative county."

Standing Order 170A read.

Mr. J. W. Lowther 46

Standing Order amended, in line 17, by leaving out, after the word "substitute," the words "shorter periods for the periods," and inserting the words "a period not exceeding forty-two years for the period of twenty-one years."—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

Great Eastern Railway Bill. (BY ORDER.)

Mr. Tully (*Leitrim, S.*) 48
Mr. Doogan (*Tyrone, E.*) 48

Motion made, and Question proposed—
"That it be an Instruction to the Committee, when dealing with Clause 10, page 8, line 3, to leave out from 'In' to 'thereabouts,' in line 15 (inclusive)."—(*Mr. Tully.*)

Discussion :—
Mr. Penn (*Lewisham*) 49
Mr. Caine (*Cornwall, Camborne*) 49
Mr. J. W. Lowther 50
Sir John Brunner (*Cheshire, Northwich*) 50
Mr. Sydney Buxton (*Tower Hamlets, Poplar*) 51
Mr. Keir Hardie (*Merthyr Tydvil*) 51
Mr. Courtenay Warner (*Staffordshire, Lichfield*).. 52
Sir J. Blundell Maple (*Camberwell, Dulwich*) 52

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 110; Noes, 133. (Division List No. 66.)

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Private Bills (Standing Order 62 complied with).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, namely:—Dorking Gas Bill; Midland Railway Bill; Torrington and Okehampton Railway Bill; Tottenham and Hampstead Junction Railway Bill; Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time 56

Private Bills (Standing Order 63 complied with).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 63 has been complied with, namely:—Long Eaton Gas Bill. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time 56

Provisional Order Bills (No Standing Orders applicable).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, namely:—Paisley Gas Provisional Order Bill. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time upon Monday next 57

Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899.—The Chairman of Ways and Means presented Report by the Chairman of Committees of the House of Lords and the Chairman of Ways and Means in the House of Commons—"That the General Orders not complied with in respect of the following Provisional Orders:—Ayr County Buildings; Paisley District Tramways; ought to be dispensed with and the Orders allowed to proceed." Report to lie upon the Table.. 57

PETITIONS.

Elementary Education (Higher Grade and Evening Continuation Schools).—Petition from Wakefield, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table 57

Inhabited House Duty and Income Tax.—Petitions for alteration of Law, from City of London; and Manchester; to lie upon the Table 57

Parliamentary Franchise.—Petition from Cheltenham, for extension to women; to lie upon the Table 57

Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, 1896.—Petition from Ince-in-Makerfield, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table 57

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children Bill.—Petitions in favour, from Sheffield (twenty); Norton; Widmore (two); Tuxford; Prestonpans; Clitheroe; London (eight); Newhaven; Disley; Stanley; Cupar; Kidderminster (two); Brecon; Leith; Lower Wortley; Yorkshire; Petersfield; Bethania; Llwynypia; Holmesdale; Nottingham; Glasgow; Cardiff; Chorlton-cum-Hardy (four); Chertsey; York; Stockton-on-Tees (four); Sittingbourne; Stretford; Whiteinch; Aberdeen (four); Bromley; St. Austell; Manchester; Camberwell; Bute; Bath (two); Norwood; Rotherham; Chichester; Wigton; Manningtree; Liverpool (five); Brechin; Chryston; Perth; Perkins Beach; Goudhurst; Leeds; Congleton; Cinderford; Thornaby-on-Tees (two); Greenock; Birmingham (four); Stone Broom; Edinburgh (two); Cupar Angus; Shettleston; Carlisle (six); Rotherham; Masbrough; Greasbrough; Driffield; Kensington; Swansea; and Zetland; to lie upon the Table 57

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children (Scotland) Bill.—Petitions in favour, from Denny and Dunipale; North Berwick; Dryfesdale; Kirmahoe Gladsmuir; Lockerbie; Ferryden; Cupar (two); Inverness; Ross-shire; Duns; Whithorn; Dunoon; Wemyss; Govan; Gartley; Huntly; Edinburgh; Blairgowrie and Rattray; Kirriemuir; Monifieth; Aberdeen; and Dollar; to lie upon the Table 57

Sovereign's Oath on Accession Bill.—Petitions against, from Dunfermline; and Alloa; to lie upon the Table 57

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Parliamentary Constituencies (Electors, etc.) (United Kingdom).—Return presented, relative thereto (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 116, of Session 1900) [Address 15th February: *Sir Charles Dilke*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 85] 57

Municipal Corporations (Incorporation of Wallsend).—Copy presented, of Charter of Incorporation of the borough of Wallsend, dated 12th March, 1901 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 57

Civil Services and Revenue Departments (Supplementary Estimates, 1900–1901).—Copy presented, of a revised Estimate of the further sum required to be voted for the service of the year ending 31st March, 1901 [by Command]; referred to the Committee of Supply, and to be printed. [No. 84.] 59

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House.—Inquiry into Charities (County of Lancaster).—Further Return relative thereto [ordered 8th August, 1898: *Mr. Grant Lawson*]; to be printed. [No. 86.] .. 59

East India (Petitions of Officers of Public Works Department).—Address for "Return showing the number of Petitions which have been received during the past fifteen years, either by the Government of India or by the Secretary of State for India, from the officers of the Public Works Department who entered the Royal Indian Engineering College, Cooper's Hill, during the first five years of its existence, the said Petitions containing, it is believed, representations to the effect that the terms under which they had been engaged had not been adhered to, and that their careers and prospects were thereby ruined or very seriously affected; also of the number and nature and date of the replies to these officers."—(*Mr. Kimber.*) 59

South Africa (Naval Brigade).—Address for "Copies of Despatches in regard to the Naval Brigade in South Africa which were published in the *London Gazette* of the 12th instant."—(*Sir James Fergusson.*) .. 59

Civil List.—Leave given to the Select Committee to make a Special Report. Special Report brought up and read as followeth:—

"The attention of your Committee has been called to the publication in *The Times* newspaper of 14th March of a statement purporting to represent proposals contained in the papers marked Confidential referred to your Committee, and to a Report of their proceedings on 13th March.

"They are unable to ascertain in what manner this can have been divulged.

"They recommend that Mr. Speaker, to whom the authority of the House in such matters is delegated, do take such steps, either by the exclusion of the representative of *The Times* from the inner lobbies of the House, or otherwise, as may seem to him best calculated to prevent such publication in future.”

Special Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 87.] 60

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South African War—Relief to Sufferers After the War.—Question, Mr. Alfred Davies (Carmarthen Boroughs); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) 60

Paardeberg—General Colvile's Report.—Question, Mr. Allen (Gloucestershire, Stroud); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 60

General Colvile's Recall.—Questions, Mr. Lambert (Devonshire, South Molton) and Mr. Winston Churchill (Oldham); Answers, Mr. Brodrick 61

Ladysmith Correspondence.—Question, Mr. Yerburgh (Chester); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 62

Yeomanry Training Conditions.—Question, Mr. Carlile (Buckinghamshire, N.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 62

Imperial Yeomanry—Fife and Forfar Contingents.—Question, Sir John Leng (Dundee); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 62

German Made Field Guns.—Question, Mr. Renwick (Newcastle-on-Tyne); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 63

Pay of Civilian Doctors and Veterinary Surgeons at Home Stations.—Question, Mr. Randles (Cumberland, Cockermouth); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton) 63

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Mark IV. Bullets.—Questions, Mr. Herbert Lewis (Flint Boroughs) and Mr. Weir; Answers, Lord Stanley 67

H.M.S. “St. Vincent” and “Britannia.”—Question, Mr. Eugene Wason (Clackmannan and Kinross); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) 67

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WEST COAST OF AFRICA—LABOUR LAWS.—Question, Mr. Caine (Cornwall, Camborne); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 71

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CHINA—COST OF WARLIKE OPERATIONS.—Question, Mr. Herbert Lewis; Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir M. Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.).. 74

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ENGINE EXPLOSIONS ON THE LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE RAILWAY.—Question, Mr. Bell (Derby); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 79

CONSTITUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRADE.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 79

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SHILLELAGH UNION TROUBLES.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 91

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STEWARTSTOWN—ST. PATRICK'S DAY MEETING.—Questions, Mr. Doogan (Tyrone, E.), Mr. Flavin (Kerry, N.), Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.), and Mr. Patrick O'Brien; Answers, Mr. Wyndham 95

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IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT—ROAD LENGTH LIMITS.—Question, Mr. Kendal O'Brien (Tipperary, Mid); Answer, Mr. Atkinson 100

IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT RULES AND ORDERS.—Question, Mr. Kennedy (Westmeath, N.); Answer, Mr. Atkinson 100

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.—Question, Mr. Markham (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 105

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Questions, Mr. O'Dowd (Sligo, S.), Sir John Colomb (Great Yarmouth), Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Sir John Brunner, Captain Norton, Mr. Chaplin, Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.), Colonel Welby (Taunton), Mr. Blake (Longford, S.), and Mr. Edmund Robertson; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 106

LESLIE v. THE JUSTICES OF MONAGHAN—ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE:—

Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.) 111
Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.) 113

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Mr. T. W. Russell.*)

Discussion :

The Attorney General for Ireland (*Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.*) .. 115
Mr. Hemphill (*Tyrone, N.*) .. 119
Mr. Blake (*Longford, S.*) .. 121
Mr. Edmund Robertson (*Dundee*) .. 122
The Chief Secretary for Ireland (*Mr. Wyndham, Dover*) .. 124
Mr. Clancy (*Dublin County, N.*) .. 125
The Chancellor of the Exchequer (*Sir M. Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.*) .. 127
Mr. Whittaker (*Yorkshire, W.R., Spen Valley*) .. 127

Motion by leave, withdrawn.

NEW BILLS.

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTORATE (SCOTLAND).—Bill to admit to the School Board electorate in Scotland all persons entitled to vote for the county council election, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Weir, Mr. Leveson-Gower, Mr. Nicol, Mr. Cathcart Wason, Mr. John Dewar, Mr. Bignold, Mr. Harmsworth, and Mr. Caldwell.

School Board Electorate (Scotland) Bill.—"To admit to the School Board Electorate in Scotland all persons entitled to vote for the county council election," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 97.] .. 129

LIBEL.—Bill to amend the Law of Libel, ordered to be brought in by Sir John Willox, Sir Albert Rollit, Sir Charles Dilke, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, and Mr. Frederick Wilson.

Libel Bill.—"To amend the Law of Libel," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 5th June, and to be printed. [Bill 98.] .. 129

CROFTERS' HOLDINGS (SCOTLAND) ACT (1886) AMENDMENT.—Bill to amend the Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Act, 1886, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Weir, Mr. John Dewar, Mr. Leveson-Gower, Mr. Cathcart Wason, Mr. Bignold, Mr. Harmsworth, and Mr. Caldwell.

Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Act (1886) Amendment Bill.—"To amend the Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Act, 1886," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 99.] .. 130

BURIAL GROUNDS (LOANS) (SCOTLAND).—Bill to extend the period of repayment of Loans for Burial Grounds in Scotland, ordered to be brought in by Captain Sinclair and Mr. John Morley.

Burial Grounds (Loans) (Scotland) Bill.—"To extend the period of repayment of Loans for Burial Grounds in Scotland," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday, 22nd April, and to be printed. [Bill 100.] .. 130

SUPPLY (ARMY ESTIMATES).—Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Main Question [14th March], "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair."—*Mr. Brodrick.*

Question again proposed.

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Discussion :—

Sir Charles Dilke (*Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean*) 129
Mr. Arthur Lee (*Hampshire, Fareham*) 141
The First Lord of the Treasury (*Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.*).. 151

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Considered in Committee.

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1901-2.

A. 450,000, Number of Land Forces.

Discussion :—

Mr. Courtenay Warner (*Staffordshire, Lichfield*).. 152
Sir John Colomb (*Great Yarmouth*) 160
Mr. William Redmond (*Clare, E.*) 161
Colonel Welby (*Taunton*) 162
Colonel Nolan (*Galway, N.*) 164
Colonel Brookfield (*Sussex, Rye*) 166
Mr. Edmund Robertson (*Dundee*) 170
The Financial Secretary to the War Office (*Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton*) 176

Resolution agreed to.

1. £21,657,500, Pay, etc., of the Army (General Staff, Regiments, Reserve, and Departments).

Mr. F. W. Wilson (*Norfolk, Mid*) 181
Mr. Samuel Smith (*Flintshire*) 182
Captain Sinclair (*Forfarshire*) 183
Mr. Blake (*Longford, S.*) 183
Sir J. Fergusson (*Manchester, N.E.*) 185
Mr. Asquith (*Fifeshire, E.*) 185
Mr. Lloyd-George (*Carnarvon Boroughs*) 185
Mr. A. J. Balfour 186

Resolution agreed to.

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee to sit again on Monday next.

SUPPLY [8TH MARCH].—Resolutions reported :—

ARMY (SUPPLEMENTARY) ESTIMATES, 1900-1901.

1. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £3,000,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Additional Expenditure, due to the war in South Africa, in respect of the following Army Services, viz. :—

	£
Vote 6. Transport and Remounts	2,000,000
Vote 7. Provisions, Forage, and other Supplies	1,000,000
Total	£3,000,000."

ORDNANCE FACTORIES.

2. "That a supplementary Sum, not exceeding £100, be granted to His Majesty to defray the Charge for the Ordnance factories (the cost

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of the Productions of which will be charged to the Army, Navy, and Indian and Colonial Governments), which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1901.'

Resolutions read a second time.

First Resolution :—

Motion made, and Question put—

"That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Mr. Tully (*Leitrim, S.*) 187
Mr. O'Mara (*Kilkenny, S.*) 187
Mr. Flynn (*Cork, N.*) 188
Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett (*Sheffield, Ecclesall*) 189
Lord Stanley 189
Mr. Field (*Dublin, St. Patrick*) 190
Mr. Herbert Lewis (*Flint Boroughs*) 191
Colonel Nolan 192
Mr. Flavin (*Kerry, N.*) 193
Mr. O'Shee (*Waterford, W.*) 193
Lord Stanley 194
Mr. Duffy (*Galway, S.*) 194

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 135 ; Noes, 43. (Division List No. 67.)

Second Resolution agreed to.

Adjourned at half after One of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS : MONDAY, 18TH MARCH, 1901.

LORD HENLEY.—Report made from the Lord Chancellor that the right of Frederic Henley, Baron Henley, to vote at the elections of Representative Peers for Ireland has been established to the satisfaction of the Lord Chancellor ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 197

TOOK THE OATH.—The Lord Stanley of Alderley took the Oath 197

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Nottingham Corporation Bill [H.L.].—The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the promoters do not intend to proceed further with the Bill ; Order for the Second Reading to-morrow discharged ; ordered, that the Bill be not further proceeded with 197

South Lancashire Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Read 2ª 197

Otley Gas Bill [H.L.] ; Cowes Ferry Bill [H.L.] ; Sutton-in-Ashfield Urban District Water)) Bill [H.L.] ; Chester Corporation Tramways Bill [H.L.] ; Alfreton Gas Bill [H.L.] ; Easton and Church Hope Railway Bill [H.L.] ; Lynton and Barnstaple Railway Bill [H.L.] ; Dover Gas Bill [H.L.] ; Doncaster Tithe Trust Bill [H.L.].—Committed 197

Harrogate Corporation Bill [H.L.] ; Mersey Docks and Harbour Board (Canada Dock Works, etc.,) Bill [H.L.] ; Tyneside Tramways and Tramroads Bill [H.L.].—Committed : The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 197

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Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]; Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway (No. 2) Bill [H.L.]; Brompton and Piccadilly Circus Railway Bill [H.L.]; South Western and Isle of Wight Junction Railway Bill [H.L.]; Birmingham (City) Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Wigan Corporation Tramways, etc., Bill [H.L.].—Committed: The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 198

PRIVATE BILLS—AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS.

The Chairman of Committees (*The Earl of Morley*) 198

Moved, "That the Standing Orders be amended as follows:—

NOTE.—The words within brackets are to be omitted, and the words printed in *Italics* are to be inserted.

105*d*. The council of any administrative county alleging in their petition that such administrative county, or any part thereof, may be injuriously affected—

(*A*) By the provisions of any Bill relating to the water supply of any town or district, whether situate within or without such county; *or*

(*B*) *By the provisions of any Bill proposing to authorise the construction or reconstruction of any tramway along any main road, or along any other road to the maintenance and repair of which the County Council contributes, within the administrative county* shall be entitled to be heard against such Bill.

133. No power shall be given to any local authority to construct, acquire, take on lease, or work any tramway, or portion of tramway, beyond the limits of their district, unless such tramway, or portion of tramway, is in connection with a tramway belonging to, or authorised to be constructed, acquired, or worked by the local authority, and unless the Committee on the Bill shall determine that, having regard to the special local circumstances, such construction, acquisition, taking on lease, or working ought to be sanctioned.

In every case in which the Committee shall so determine, they shall specify what portion of the tramway will be situate beyond the district of the local authority to which the power of construction, acquisition, or taking on lease is given, and shall insert a clause for the protection of the local authority of the district in which such tramway or portion of tramway will be situate in the terms *mutatis mutandis* of Section 43 of the Tramways Act, 1870, except that the Committee may, if they think fit in the special circumstances of the case, substitute *a period not exceeding forty-two years for the period of twenty-one years*, shorter periods for the periods mentioned in that section."
—(*The Chairman of Committees.*)

Agreed to: Standing Orders amended accordingly, and to be printed as amended. (No. 20.)

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ARMY.—Return of Military Forces in South Africa (Over-sea Colonial Contingents) 200

COLONIES (ANNUAL).—Reports for 1899–1900:—No. 317. Jamaica. No. 318. British Guiana 200

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GOLD COAST.—Correspondence relating to the Ashanti War, 1900 200

EMIGRATION.—Report on the Emigrants' Information Office, for the year ended 31st December, 1900 200
Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table

PETITION.

INTOXICATING LIQUORS.—Petition against the sale of, on Sundays, of the inhabitants of Guildford; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 201

LICENSING SESSIONS BILL—HABITUAL DRUNKARDS BILL—EXPLANATION:—
The Lord Bishop of Winchester 201

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—INQUIRY INTO CONDUCT AND OPERATIONS.—

Discussion:—

Lord Sandhurst 201
The Lord President of the Council (*The Duke of Devonshire*) 205
Earl Spencer 206
The Earl of Morley 207
Lord Tweedmouth 208
The Prime Minister and Lord Privy Seal (*The Marquess of Salisbury*) 209
The Earl of Rosebery 210

Public Libraries Bill [H.L.]—[Second Reading].—Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

Lord Windsor 211

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2*a*."—(*Lord Windsor*.)

The Lord Chancellor (*The Earl of Halsbury*) 213

On Question, agreed to. Bill read 2*a* accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

PRESENCE OF THE SOVEREIGN IN PARLIAMENT.—Commons Message considered (according to Order).

Moved, "That this House do concur in the following resolution communicated by the Commons, viz., 'That it is expedient that a Select Committee be appointed to join with a Committee of the Lords to consider the accommodation available in the House of Lords when the Sovereign is personally present in Parliament, and the advisability of substituting Westminster Hall on such an occasion for the House of Lords.'"—(*The Lord Privy Seal*.)

The Earl of Feversham 214

On Question, agreed to; and a Message ordered to be sent to the Commons to acquaint them therewith.

Licensing Board Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to create a new licensing authority and a board to hear licensing appeals—was presented by the Earl of Camperdown; read 1*a*; and to be printed. (No. 21.) 215

House adjourned at half-past Five of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: MONDAY, 18TH MARCH, 1901.

One Member took and subscribed the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Great Eastern Railway Bill (BY ORDER).—The following Instruction stood on the Paper in the name of Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick's):—"That it be an Instruction to the Committee, that no preferential rates shall be given to foreign produce carried over the lines controlled by this Company."

Instruction ruled out of Order 215

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz.:—Great Western Railway Bill. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time 216

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 63 COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 63 has been complied with, viz.:—Cromer Water Bill. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time 216

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz.:—Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time to-morrow 216

Llandrindod Wells Water Bill; Golborne Gas Bill; Richmond Gas Bill; Stroud Gas Bill.—Read a second time, and committed 216

Stratford-upon-Avon, Towcester, and Midland Junction, East and West Junction and Evesham, Redditch, and Stratford-upon-Avon Junction Railway Companies Bill (BY ORDER).—Second Reading deferred till Tuesday, 16th April 217

Thames Deep Dock Water Bill (BY ORDER).—Read a second time, and committed 217

Paisley Gas Provisional Order Bill—Read a second time, and committed 217

PETITIONS.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).—Petitions for alteration of Law, from Leeds; Stalybridge; Ilkeston; Liversedge; and School Board for London; to lie upon the Table 217

INHABITED HOUSE DUTY AND INCOME TAX.—Petitions for alteration of Law, from Northern and North Eastern Districts of London; and Liverpool; to lie upon the Table 217

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1896.—Petitions for alteration of Law, from Bolton; Stockton; and Southborough; to lie upon the Table 217

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Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children Bill.—Petitions in favour, from Strood; Aberdeen (three); Atherton and Tyldesley; Over; Anvil Corner; Abersychan; Ashwater; Ashton-under-Lyne; Bradford (Yorks) (four); Birmingham (six); Christow; Branksome; Southwark; Birkenshaw; Cardiff; York (two); Carlisle (seven); Carron; Crediton; Ealing; Falkirk; Glossop; Grampound Road; Glossop Dale; Holsworthy; Bulwell; Low Hesket; Lewisham (two); Messingham; Marton; Newton Burgoland; Okehampton; Oswaldtwistle; Petersfield; Plymouth; Pontypool; Sheffield (ten); Salford (two); Southlands; Stonehouse; Tavistock; Black Torrington; Tyldesley (two); North Meols; Uttoxeter (two); Wadebridge; Worksop; Walworth (three); Harrogate (two); Stockton-on-Tees (three); Garndiffaith; Alloa (three); Port Glasgow; Oldham; Leek; Penrith; Kensington; Clapton; Manchester; Taunton (two); Woolwich (two); Malvern (four); Upton-on-Severn; Tenbury; Bensham; Larkhall; Durham; Edinburgh (five); Notting Hill (two); Lumphanan; Chelmsford; Broomfield; Bilborough; Malton; Ashton-under-Lyne; Kingussie; Kennethmont; Brixham; Athlone; Kingston-upon-Hull; Partick; Whiteinch; Norton; Bowmore; Barnoldswick; Thomas Stansfield; Falkirk (two); Sandford; Northwich; Blaenavon; Nottingham; Sneinton; Liverpool (two); Cowpen; Morpeth; Bebside; Wandsworth; Newmilns; Gainsborough; Malvern Link; Worcester; Derby; Withyham; Gloucester; Crawley; Down; London; Glasgow; Mildmay Park; Sefton Park (two); Malton (three); Chelsea; Hatherleigh (two); Portsmouth (three); Tregeare; Southsea; Smethwich; Bromley (two); Appledore; Greenock (three); Rhoda Saint; Royton; Harrington; Leeds (two); Rawtenstall; Bacup; Insch; Kirkstall; Birstall; Brierfield; Colne; North Kensington; Cubitt Town; Sowerby Bridge; Milnathort; Brixham; Rye; Middleton; Rugby; and Aberdovey (five); to lie upon the Table 217

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children (Scotland) Bill.—Petitions in favour, from Dundee; Biggar; Peterhead; Pittenween; Anstruther Easter (two); Kilrenny (three); Ravenscraig; Denny; Kilsyth; Falkirk (two); Airth; Dumfries; Kirkcudbright; Carluke; Kirkfieldbank; Wick (two); Kirriemuir; Edinburgh (seven); Lanark; Drumlade; Port Glasgow (two); Peebles (two); Alvie; Glasgow (four); Grand Lodge of Scotland Independent Order of Good Templars; Innerleithen; Walkerburn; Auchterless; Uddingstone; Rothesay; Alva; Tillicoultry (two); Crail; Alloa (two); Larkhall; and Wishaw; to lie upon the Table 218

Trout Fishing Annual Close Time (Scotland) Bill.—Petition from Cupar Eden, in favour; to lie upon the Table 218

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Colonial Reports (Annual).—Copy presented, of Report No. 318 (British Guiana, Annual Report for 1899–1900) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 219

Emigration (Colonies).—Copy presented, of Report on the Emigrants' Information Office for the year ended 31st December, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 219

Army.—Copy presented, of Return of Military Forces in South Africa (Oversea Colonial Contingents) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 219

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TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, No. 2561 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 219

POLICE SUPERANNUATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Ordered, That the Report and Minutes of Evidence of the Select Committee on the Police (Scotland) Bill of Session 1890 be referred to the Select Committee on the Police Superannuation (Scotland) Bill.—(*The Lord Advocate.*) 219

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—YEOMAN SETTLERS.—Question, Mr. Thomas Dewar (Tower Hamlets, St. George's); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) 219

THE SURRENDER OF HELVETIA.—Question, Mr. Lambert (Devonshire, South Molton); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 220

ALLEGED SHOOTING OF BRITISH SUBJECTS BY COMMANDANT DELAREY.—Question, Mr. Maconochie (Aberdeenshire, E.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 220

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MILITIA RESERVISTS ON ACTIVE SERVICE.—Questions, Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield Central) and Mr. Ffrench (Wexford, S.); Answers, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton) 221

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MILITIA—TRAINING OF BATTALIONS NOT EMBODIED.—Question, Mr. Griffith Boscawen; Answer, Lord Stanley 222

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Shanghai and Taku Cable.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.) 228

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The New Coinage.—Question, Mr. William Redmond; Answer, Sir M. Hicks Beach 229

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IRISH QUEEN'S COLLEGES.—Question, Mr. Roche (Galway, E.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 246

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THE ROYAL DECLARATION AGAINST ROMAN CATHOLICISM.—Questions, Mr. Delany, Mr. Patrick O'Brien, and Mr. William Johnstone (Belfast, S.); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 255

THE CIVIL LIST COMMITTEE—PUBLICATION OF CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS.—Questions, Mr. Roche and Mr. Young (Cavan, E.); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour and the Attorney-General (Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs) 256

CIVIL SERVICE REVISED SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE.

Mr. Sydney Buxton (*Tower Hamlets, Poplar*) 257
Mr. John Redmond (*Waterford*) 258
The First Lord of the Treasury (*Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.*) 258
Mr. Edmund Robertson (*Dundee*) 260

Mr. John Redmond asked permission to move the adjournment of the House in order to call attention to a definite matter of urgent public importance—namely, "the substitution for the Civil Service Estimates previously presented of a Supplementary Estimate for one sum covering all the various Departments, contrary to the uniform practice of the House."

The pleasure of the House having been signified—

Mr. John Redmond 262
Mr. Lough (*Islington, W.*) 269

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That this House do now adjourn."—(*Mr. John Redmond.*)

Discussion :—

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (*Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.*) 269
Sir Robert Reid (*Dumfries Burghs*) 274
Mr. James Lowther (*Kent, Thanet*) 276
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Mr. Bartley (*Islington, N.*) 299
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Mr. Flynn (*Cork, N.*) 301
Mr. Lloyd-George (*Carnarvon Boroughs*) 302

Mr. A. J. Balfour rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided :—Ayes, 208 ; Noes, 121. (Division List No. 68.)

Question put accordingly, "That this House do now adjourn."

The House divided :—Ayes, 119 ; Noes, 205. (Division List No. 69.)

SUPPLY—NAVY ESTIMATES.—Order for Committee read.

Motion made, and Question proposed,—
"That Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair."—(*Mr. Arnold-Forster.*)

The Secretary to the Admiralty (*Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.*) .. 313

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Resolved, That this House will immediately resolve itself into the Committee of Supply.—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Considered in Committee :—

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS REVISED SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1900-1901.

Motion made, and Question proposed,—
"That a Supplementary Sum, not exceeding £893,316, be granted to His Majesty to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the following Civil Services and Revenue Departments, viz. :—

CIVIL SERVICES.

Class V.	£
Vote 3. Colonial Services	212,300
Vote 2. British Protectorates in Uganda, etc. ..	200,000

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Class VII.

Vote 1.	Temporary Commissions	9,000

Class II.

Vote 23.	Stationery and Printing	110,000
Vote 27.	Secretary for Scotland, Office of	100

Class III.

Vote 2.	Miscellaneous Legal Expenses	400

Class IV.

Vote 5.	Wallace Collection	3,333
Vote 8.	London University	70

Class V.

Vote 1.	Diplomatic and Consular Services	15,800
Vote 6.	Treasury Chest Fund	66,108

Class VI.

Vote 1.	Superannuation and Retired Allowances	10,000
Vote 5.	Savings Banks and Friendly Societies Deficiencies	51,758

Class VII.

Vote 2.	Miscellaneous Expenses	4,600
Vote 6.	Local Loans Fund	4,337
Vote 7.	Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York (Visit to the Colonies)	20,000
Vote 8.	Funeral of Her late Majesty	35,500

REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

Vote 2.	Inland Revenue	20,000
Vote 3.	Post Office	130,000
Vote 4.	Post Office Packet Service	10
	Total Civil Services and Revenue Departments	£893,316

Mr. Lough (*Islington, W.*) 338

Whereupon Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item A, 1, Class 5, Vote 3, be reduced by £100."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Mr. Sydney Buxton (*Tower Hamlets, Poplar*) 344
The Secretary of State for the Colonies (*Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.*) 348

It being midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again to-morrow.

Adjourned at five minutes after Twelve of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: TUESDAY, 19TH MARCH, 1901.

Several Lords took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Milford Docks Bill [H.L.].—Committed 365

Harpenden District Gas Bill [H.L.].—Committed; the Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 365

Poulton-le-Fylde Gas Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, no parties having appeared in opposition thereto; read, and ordered to lie on the Table: The orders made on the eighth instant and Thursday last discharged, and Bill committed 356

Dover Corporation Bill [H.L.]—Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, no parties having appeared in opposition thereto; read, and ordered to lie on the Table: The orders made on the 8th instant and Thursday last discharged, and Bill committed 365

Henry Diaper and Company (Delivery Warrants) Bill [H.L.].—Reported with Amendments 365

Manchester (Market Street Area) Improvements Bill [H.L.]—Read 2*a* (according to order) 365

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

South Africa.—Papers relating to negotiations between Commandant Louis Botha and Lord Kitchener 365

Factory and Workshop (Use of Lead in the Manufacture of Pottery).—Reports received by the Secretary of State for the Home Department from Professor T. E. Thorpe, C.B., LL.D., F.R.S., Principal of the Government Laboratory, on the use of lead in the manufacture of pottery 365

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

Superannuation.—Treasury Minute, dated 14th March, 1901, declaring that William C. Hoskins, labourer, Royal Laboratory, War Department, was appointed without a Civil Service Certificate, through inadvertence on the part of the head of his department. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 366

South African War—Peace Negotiations with General Botha.—Question, Earl Spencer; Answer, The Prime Minister and Lord Privy Seal (The Marquess of Salisbury) 366

Prisons (Scotland) Bill [H.L.].—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

The Secretary for Scotland (Lord Balfour of Burleigh) 366

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2*a*."—(*The Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

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On Question, agreed to. Bill read 2*a* accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday next.

Berwickshire County Town Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to order). Bill reported without amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3*a* on Thursday next.. 369

ROYAL DECLARATION AGAINST ROMAN CATHOLICISM:—
Lord Herries 369
Moved to resolve, "That it is desirable that a Joint Committee of both Houses be appointed to consider and report upon the Declaration which the Sovereign is by Statute compelled to make upon oath after his accession to the Throne."—(*The Lord Herries.*)

Discussion:—
Lord Braye 374
The Earl of Portsmouth 375
Lord Kinnaird 377
The Marquess of Salisbury 378

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

MILITARY INSTRUCTION FOR OFFICERS:—
The Duke of Bedford 381
The Under Secretary of State for War (Lord Raglan) 385
Lord Monkswell 385

PRESERVATION OF ANCIENT INDIAN MONUMENTS:—
Lord Stanley of Alderley 385
The Under Secretary of State for India (The Earl of Hardwicke).. 386

THE LORD CHANCELLOR'S PATRONAGE—CASE OF REV. A. N. VOWLER:—
The Earl of Mount-Edgcumbe 388
The Lord Chancellor (The Earl of Halsbury) 388
The Lord Bishop of Manchester 389

House adjourned at five minutes past Six of the Clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: TUESDAY, 19TH MARCH, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

British Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company Bill.—Order [25th February], That the Bill be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn .. 389

STANDING ORDERS.—Resolutions reported from the Committee:—

1. "That, in the case of the London County Council (Tramways and Street Widenings) Petition, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with: That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, provided that the powers to construct Tramways Nos. 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 8A, 8B, 8C, 9, 10, 10A, 11, 11A, and 11B be struck out of the Bill: That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."

2. "That, in the case of the Brompton and Piccadilly Circus Railway Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with: That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, provided that

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Railways Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 be struck out of the Bill: That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."

3. "That, in the case of the Chester Corporation Tramways Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with: That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, provided that Tramways Nos. 1, 2, and 3, and so much of Tramway No. 6 as lies beyond the City boundary, be struck out of the Bill: That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."

4. "That, in the case of the South Lancashire Tramways Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with: That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, provided that the powers to construct Tramways Nos. 7 and 8 be struck out of the Bill: That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."

5. "That, in the case of the Wigan Corporation Tramways Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with: That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, provided that Tramway No. 2 be struck out of the Bill: That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such order has been complied with."

6. "That, in the case of the Thames Piers and River Service Bill, Petition of the 'Watermen and Lightermen of the River Thames' for dispensing with Standing Order 129 in the case of their Petition against the Bill, the said Standing Order ought to be dispensed with."

7. "That, in the case of the Barry Railway Company, Petition for leave to deposit a Petition for Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with: That the parties be permitted to deposit their Petition for a Bill."

Resolutions agreed to 390

London County Council (Tramways and Street Widenings).—Report [this day] from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read. Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. John Burns and Mr. Lough 391

Selection.—Mr. Halsey reported from the Committee of Selection, That they had selected Mr. Baird to be a member of the Parliamentary Panel of Members of this House to act as Commissioners in pursuance of the provisions of the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, in the place of Sir Charles Dalrymple. Report to lie upon the Table 391

PETITIONS.

Beer Bill.—Petitions in favour, from Leighton; Liverpool; and Coates; to lie upon the Table 391

Elementary Education (Higher Grade and Evening Continuation Schools).—Petitions for alteration of Law, from Scarborough; Barnsley; and National Union of Teachers; to lie upon the Table 391

Licensing (Sale of Intoxicating Liquors).—Petitions for alteration of Law, from Warbleton; and Midhurst; to lie upon the Table 391

Liquor Traffic Local Veto (Scotland) Bill.—Petition from Duniper Green, in favour; to lie upon the Table 392

Parliamentary Franchise.—Petitions for extension to women, from Manchester; Birmingham and other places; and Women Workers in the Cotton Factories of Lancashire; to lie upon the Table 392

Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, 1896.—Petition from Isle of Wight, against alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Erith; and Thornhill; to lie upon the Table 392

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors on Sunday Bill.—Petitions in favour, from Redhill; and Guildford; to lie upon the Table 392

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children Bill.—Petitions in favour, from Sheffield (forty-one); East Renfrewshire (two); Mossley; Bainbridge; North Shields; Bampton; Birmingham (eleven); Handsworth; Inverness (eleven); Sparkhill; Droylsden; Tiverton; Goole; South London; Plymouth (three); Kingswood; Tottenham; Redditch; Edinburgh (eleven); Burslem; London (four); Glasgow (twelve); Chorley; Upper Holloway; Frant; Manchester (two); Liverpool (eighteen); Rotherham; Knighton; Motherwell (three); Eastbourne; Ealing Dean; Margate; Shrewsbury; West Kensington; Bloomsbury; Walworth (two); Ticehurst; Kennington (two); Brixton Hill; Chernside West; Heaton Mersey; York; Leeds (thirteen); Tiverton-on-Avon; Camberwell (three); Peckham (two); Stratford; West Ham; Ashurst; Brighton; Chailey (two); North Tawton (two); Torry; Birkenhead (three); Lewes (two); Withington (three); Clapham (three); Elgin; Bishops Stortford (three); Leytonstone (twelve); Forest Gate; Bath; Harrow Green; Pollokshaws; Winchester; Bristol (seven); Llandyssiliogogo (two); Wheatley Hill (two); Cilfynydd; Penzance; Cardigan; Littlehampton; Farnham; Ecclesall; Renton; Salisbury; Falkirk (two); Clynder-Rosneath; Newquay; Wylye; St. Ives (four); Woodhouse Hill; Elland; Hanwell; Rastrick; Abernethy; Gloucester (two); Lanark (two); Brockley; Lambeth; Wilmslow; Woodford Green; Muirhead; Penpont; Garston (two); Mile End; Portswood; Harrow; Penycae; Lockerbie; Lewisham; Pudsey Valley; Holm; Dalkeith; Bradford; Stockport; Dartford; Ashwater; Llanfyllin (four); Grantown-on-Spey; Old Machar; Ivybridge; Peterhead; Sparkbrook (two); North Kensington; Deptford (two); Worcester; Wilmslow; Pagham; Tranent; Bradford-on-Avon; Corsham (two); Bathgate; Kilburn; Machynlleth; Oldham; Finsbury; Bradford (Yorks.); (five) Great Lumley; Queen's Park; Huntingdon; Croydon (eighteen); Maldon; West Croydon (three); South Norwood (two); Woodside; Thornton Heath (three); Norwood; Upper Norwood (four); Upper Caterham; Stalybridge; Maidenhead Reach; Baildon; Lee; Market Lavington; South Petherton; Taunton (three); Dublin; Wishaw; School Board for London; Staines; Tockwith; Cambridge; Fulbourn; Leicester (fourteen); East Lambeth; Chesterton; Bridgwater (two); Sackmore; Exford; Brixton (two); Altrincham; Clitheroe; Cubitt Town; Tenby; Derby; Griffithstown; Washford; Rugby; Banff; Dunfermline; Harecourt; Bridlington; Morley (three); Watchet; Old Kent Road; Wolverhampton (two); Rushden; Waterhouses (two); Penrhyn; Durham (three); Delton; Wellington; Willenhall; Short Heath; New Brancepeth (five); Tudhoe Colliery (three); Highworth; Aberdeen (two); Seaford; Brandon Colliery; Ripley; Middleton (eight); Thirsk; Barwick-in-Elmet; Nicklefield; Uddingstone; Stockwell; Cottingley; South Nutfield; Red Hill (three); Greenock (two); Miltom; Ossett (two); Shotts; Milton, St. Just; Scarborough (three); Higham; Criccieth; Watford; Knares-

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borough (two); Pateley Bridge; Cilcain; Lennen Cramlington Colliery (two); North Seaton; Winchester; Chesterfield (five); Norton; Appledore (two); Penrith; Sheerness (two); Langwathby; Newbiggin; Stainton; Wigton (two); Keswick; Anfield; Newmains; Malvern (two); Northumberland; Great Malvern; Llanllwchaiarn (two); Gulval; Heymoor; Tregavra; Long Rock; Penzance (ten); Mousehole; Marazion; New Mill; Melksham; Ysbytty Ifan; Deiniolen; Hipperholme; Marple (two); Hyde Town; Brimington (three); Whittington Moor; Ryton-on-Tyne; Birtley; Royton (three); Oldham; Leith; Brampton; Aberchirder; Nympsfield; Stroud (three); Nailsworth; Heanor (two); Stonehouse; Charfield; Barnsley (four); Woodchester; Dolwyddelan; Radcliffe (three); Halton Lea Gate; Cromhall; Cotlessie; Newburgh; Farnworth (twelve); Llandudno (two); Kensal Town; Kirkdale; Penmaenmawr (nine); Dwygyfylchi (two); Houghton-le-Spring; Tavistock; Dewsbury; Milnrow (two); Denton; Sandiacre (three); Batley; Whitefield; Long Eaton; Holsworthy (two); Frodsham; Edmonton; Dulwich; Kidderminster (three); Ilkeston (two); Partick; Haltwhistle; Darlington; Droylsden; Bolton (four); Swindon; Langley Moor (two); Brandon Colliery (three); Esh Winning; Stonehaven; Upholland; Ormskirk; and Browney Colliery; to lie upon the Table 392

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Ayr (four); Stonehaven Saltoun; Campbeltown (two); Govan (two); Perth (three); Harthill; Bowmore; Sanquhar; Newburgh; Wick; Edinburgh; (three); Ceres; Craigneuk; Motherwell; Airdrie Kilbrandon and Kilchattan; Dalziel (two); Cupar; Rothes; Dunfermline; Forres; Strathaven; Dunbar; Carluke (two); Broughty Ferry; Douglas; Ecclefechan (two); Kirriemuir; Thornhill; Dalkeith; Peterhead; Marnoch (two); Thurso; Bathgate; Eastwood; Glasgow (three); Stornoway; Largs (two); Renton; Cromarty (three); Braemar; Kelso; Peebles (three); Saltcoats; Helensburgh; Morebattle; Fraserburgh; Stonehaven Alloa; Rutherglen; Dalmuir; Blairgowrie; Clydebank; Dunfermline; Dennistown; Lanarkshire; Caldercruix (two); Shotts; Ardessier; Blantyre; Tain (two); Fountainbridge; Partick; and Dunoon; to lie upon the Table 394

SOVEREIGN'S OATH ON ACCESSION BILL.—Petition from Inverkeithing, against; to lie upon the Table 395

SUNDAY CLOSING (WALES) ACT (1881) AMENDMENT BILL.—Petition from Cilfynydd, in favour; to lie upon the Table 395

VIVISECTION.—Petition from Bristol, for prohibition; to lie upon the Table .. 395

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SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1884.—Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 14th March, 1901, declaring that William C. Hoskins, Labourer, Royal Laboratory, War Department, was appointed without a Civil Service Certificate through inadvertence on the part of the Head of his Department [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 395

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP (USE OF LEAD IN THE MANUFACTURE OF POTTERY).—Copy presented, of Reports received by the Secretary of State for the Home Department from Professor T. E. Thorpe, C.B., LL.D., F.R.S., Principal of the Government Laboratory, on the Use of Lead in the Manufacure of Pottery [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 395

SOUTH AFRICA.—Copy presented, of Papers relating to negotiations between Commandant Louis Botha and Lord Kitchener [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 395

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE (ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND IRELAND).—Return ordered, "showing, for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1901, (1) the amount contributed by England, Scotland, and Ireland, respectively, to the Revenue collected by Imperial officers; (2) the expenditure on English, Scottish, and Irish services met out of such Revenue; and (3) the balances of Revenue contributed by England, Scotland, and Ireland, respectively, which are available for Imperial Expenditure (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 336, of Session 1900)."—(*Mr. Lough.*) 395

IMPERIAL REVENUE (COLLECTION AND EXPENDITURE) (GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND).—Return ordered, "relating to Imperial Revenue (Collection and Expenditure) (Great Britain and Ireland) for the year ending the 31st day of March, 1901 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 337, of Session 1900)."—(*Mr. Lough.*) 396

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL *v.* LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.—Return ordered, "giving the Report of the Judgment delivered in the Irish Court of Appeal on Monday the 25th day of February last, together with the Affidavits on both sides, and the Letter of the Local Government Board referred to in the said Judgment with the Reply of the County Wexford County Council thereto."—(*Sir Thomas Esmonde.*) 396

LEAD POISONING.—Address for "Return showing, with reference to the cases of Lead Poisoning reported during the years 1899 and 1900, in the earthenware and china industry (a) the severity of the attack, (b) the number (if any) of previous attacks, and (c) the main symptoms referable to Lead Poisoning."—(*Mr. Jesse Collings*) 396

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SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH BOER GENERALS.—Questions, Mr. Schwann (Manchester, N.), Sir E. Ashmead Bartlett (Sheffield, Ecclesall), and Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.); Answers, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) 396

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YEOMANRY TRAINING.—Question, Mr. Stock (Liverpool, Walton); Answer, Lord Stanley 399

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ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE—ENROLMENT OF BOYS FROM MERCHANT SHIPS.—Question, Mr. Charles M'Arthur (Liverpool, Exchange); Answer, The President of the Board of Agriculture (Mr. Hanbury, Preston) 409

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THE CORONATION OATH.—Question, Mr. William Abraham (Cork County, N.E.); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 421

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS—PRESENCE OF THE SOVEREIGN IN PARLIAMENT.—That they concur with the Commons in their Resolution, "That it is expedient that a Select Committee be appointed to join with a Committee of Lords to consider the accommodation available in the House of Lords when the Sovereign is personally present in Parliament, and the advisability of substituting Westminster Hall on such an occasion for the House of Lords," as desired by this House 422

Cremation Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Friday, and to be printed. [Bill 101.] 422

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE (EXEMPTION FROM THE STANDING ORDER).

Motion made, and Question put—

"That the Business of Supply, if under consideration at Twelve o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order, Sittings of the House."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 195; Noes, 145. (Division List No. 70.) 422

NEW BILLS.

MILITARY INSTRUCTION (SCHOOLS AND CADETS).—Bill to provide for the regulation of Military Instruction in Schools and in Cadet Corps and Companies and Cadet Battalions, ordered to be brought in by Sir John Kennaway, Mr. Griffith-Boscawen, Mr. Cubitt, Sir Henry Fletcher, Mr. Lambert, Mr. W. F. D. Smith, and Colonel Williams.

Military Instruction (Schools and Cadets) Bill.—"To provide for the regulation of Military Instruction in Schools and in Cadet Corps and Companies and Cadet Battalions," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 1st May, and to be printed. [Bill 102.] 425

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.—Bill to make further provisions for the Housing of the Working Classes, ordered to be brought in by Dr. Macnamara, Mr. John Burns, Captain Norton, Dr. Shipman, Mr. George White, Mr. Samuel, and Mr. Bell.

Housing of the Working Classes Bill.—"To make further provision for the Housing of the Working Classes," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 18th April, and to be printed. [Bill 103.] 425

CROFTERS' HOLDINGS (SCOTLAND).—Bill to amend the Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Act, 1886, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Cathcart Wason, Mr. Bignold, Mr. John Dewar, Mr. Leveson-Gower, Mr. Harmsworth, Mr. Weir, and Mr. Gordon.

Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Bill.—"To amend the Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Act, 1886," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 17th April, and to be printed. [Bill 104.] 426

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Sites Values (London) Rating.—Bill to provide for the rating of Sites Values in London, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Sydney Buxton, Mr. Moulton, Mr. John Burns, Mr. E. J. C. Morton, and Mr. Lough.

Sites Values (London) Rating Bill.—"To provide for the rating of Sites Values in London," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 8th May, and to be printed. [Bill 105.] 426

Foreigners' Marriages.—Bill for the better protection of British subjects who intermarry with Foreigners in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Macdona, Mr. Talbot, Mr. Rothschild, Sir Joseph Dimsdale, Mr. Churchill, Lord Hugh Cecil, Captain Nolan, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, Dr. Farquharson, Mr. Samuel Evans, Mr. E. J. C. Morton, and Mr. Schwann.

Foreigners' Marriages Bill.—"For the better protection of British subjects who intermarry with Foreigners in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, and to be printed. [Bill 106.] 426

Registration of Clubs.—Bill to provide for the Registration of Clubs, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Caine, Mr. Eugene Wason, Mr. Hain, Mr. Lloyd-George, Mr. Schwann, and Mr. Samuel Young.

Registration of Clubs Bill.—"To provide for the Registration of Clubs," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday, 24th June, and to be printed. [Bill 107.] 427

Summary Jurisdiction (Ireland).—Bill to make provision with respect to entering into recognisances and finding sureties in certain cases in Ireland, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Attorney General for Ireland and Mr. Wyndham.

Summary Jurisdiction (Ireland) Bill.—"To make provision with respect to entering into recognisances and finding sureties in certain cases in Ireland," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 108.] 427

SUPPLY.—Considered in Committee.

[Mr. J. W. Lowther (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Civil Services and Revenue Departments Revised Supplementary Estimate, 1900–1901.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £893,316, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the following Civil Services and Revenue Departments, namely:—

Civil Services.

Class V.	£
Vote 3. Colonial Services	212,300
Vole 2. British Protectorates in Uganda, etc.	200,000
Class VII.	
Vote 1. Temporary Commissions	9,000

Class II.

Vote 23. Stationery and Printing	110,000
Vote 27. Secretary for Scotland, Office of	100

Class III.

Vote 2. Miscellaneous Legal Expenses	400

Class IV.

Vote 5. Wallace Collection	3,333
Vote 8. London University	70

Class V.

Vote 1. Diplomatic and Consular Services	15,800
Vote 6. Treasury Chest Fund	66,108

Class VI.

Vote 1. Superannuation and Retired Allowances ..	10,000
Vote 5. Savings Banks and Friendly Societies Deficiencies	51,758

Class VII.

Vote 2. Miscellaneous Expenses	4,600
Vote 6. Local Loans Fund	4,337
Vote 7. Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York (Visit to the Colonies)	20,000
Vote 8. Funeral of Her late Majesty	35,500

REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

Vote 2. Inland Revenue	20,000
Vote 3. Post Office	130,000
Vote 4. Post Office Packet Service	10
Total Civil Services and Revenue Departments ..	£893,316

Discussion :—

Sir William Harcourt (Monmouthshire, W.) 428
The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 429
Mr. John Ellis (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe) 430
Sir E. Ashmead Bartlett (Sheffield, Ecclesall) 430
Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs) 430

THE ASHANTI EXPEDITION.

Mr. C. P. Scott (Lancashire, Leigh) 430
Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.) 433
Mr. Thomas Bayley (Derbyshire, Chesterfield) 438
Mr. Lloyd-George (Carnarvon Boroughs) 438
Sir E. Ashmead Bartlett 443
Mr. Lough (Islington, W.) 444

Motion made, and Question proposed—
"That the Item, Class 5, Vote 3, be reduced by £100, in respect of disturbances in Ashanti."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Mr. Broadhurst (Leicester) 446
Sir William Harcourt 448
Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.) 448
Mr. O'Mara (Kilkenny, S.) 449

Question put.

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The Committee divided :—Ayes, 137 ; Noes, 254. (Division List No. 71.)

Original question again proposed.

TRANSVAAL CONCESSIONS COMMISSION.

Mr. Markham (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield) 453

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That the Item, Class 5, Vote 3, be reduced by £200, in respect of the Transvaal Concessions and Land Settlement Commissions."—(*Mr. Markham.*)

The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) 461
Mr. Lyttelton (Warwick and Leamington) 468
Mr. T. P. O'Connor (Liverpool, Scotland) 470
Sir John Brunner (Cheshire, Northwich) 472
Mr. Daly (Monaghan, S.) 473
Mr. Lloyd-George 473

Mr. J. Chamberlain rose in his place, and moved, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 195 ; Noes, 95. (Division List No. 72.)

Question, "That the Item, Class 5, Vote 3, be reduced by £200, in respect of the Transvaal Concessions and Land Settlement Commissions," put accordingly, and negatived.

Original Question again proposed.

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present. House counted ; and, forty Members being found present—

BRITISH EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) 479

Motion made, and Question proposed

"That the Item, Class 5, Vote 2, be reduced by £1,000, in respect of British East Africa."—(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Viscount Cranborne, Rochester) 482
Mr. Sydney Buxton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) 485
Mr. McKenna (Monmouth, N.) 487
Mr. J. P. Farrell 489

Mr. A. J. Balfour, rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 204 ; Noes, 117. (Division List No. 73.)

Question put accordingly, "That the item, Class 5, Vote 2, be reduced by £1,000, in respect of British East Africa."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 121 ; Noes, 212. (Division List No. 74.)

Original Question again proposed.

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THE SOMALILAND EXPEDITION.

Sir Brampton Gurdon (*Norfolk, N.*) 497

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That the Item, Class 5, Vote 2, be reduced by £10,000, in respect of Somaliland (Grant in Aid)."—(*Sir Brampton Gurdon.*)

Viscount Cranborne 499
Mr. William Redmond 501
Mr. Broadhurst 504
Mr. John Burns (*Battersea*) 504
Mr. Daly 509

Mr. A. J. Balfour rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 230 ; Noes, 117. (Division List No. 75.)

Question put accordingly, "That the Item, Class 5, Vote 2, be reduced by £10,000, in respect of Somaliland (Grant in Aid)."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 112 ; Noes, 235. (Division List No. 76.)

Original Question again proposed.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—HOSPITAL COMMISSION'S REPORT.

Mr. Burdett-Coutts (*Westminster*) 517
Mr. Dalziel (*Kirkcaldy Burghs*) 532
Sir Walter Foster (*Derbyshire, Ilkeston*) 534
The Secretary of State for War (*Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford*) .. 538
Mr. O'Shee (*Waterford, W.*) 542

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That the Item, Class 7, Vote 1, be reduced by £1,000."—(*Mr. Shee.*)

Mr. Field (*Dublin, St. Patrick*) 544
Mr. Tully (*Leitrim, S.*) 545
Dr. Thompson (*Monaghan, N.*) 546
Mr. Crean (*Cork, S.E.*) 547

Mr. A. J. Balfour rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 154 ; Noes, 72. (Division List No. 77.)

Question put accordingly, "That the Item, Class 7, Vote 1, be reduced by £1,000."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 72 ; Noes, 153. (Division List No. 68.)

Mr. A. J. Balfour claimed, "That the original Question be now put."

Original Question put accordingly—

"That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £893,316, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Civil Services and Revenue Departments."

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The Committee divided:—Ayes, 159; Noes, 64. (Division List No. 79.)

Resolutions to be reported To-morrow; Committee to sit again To-morrow.

Adjourned at Three of the clock a.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 20TH MARCH, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Dorking Gas Bill; Long Eaton Gas Bill; Midland Railway Bill; Torrington and Oakhampton Railway Bill; Tottenham and Hampstead Junction Railway Bill.—Read a second time, and committed 557

Wolverhampton and Cannock Chase Railway Bill.—Ordered, That the Minutes of Evidence taken before the Committee on the Wolverhampton and Essington Mineral Railway Bill of Session 1898, the London and North Western (New Railways) Bill of Session 1899, and the Wolverhampton, Essington, and Cannock Chase Junction Railway Bill of Session 1900, be referred to the Committee on Group No. 2, in respect of the Wolverhampton and Cannock Chase Railway Bill.—(*Mr. Hargreaves Brown.*) 557

PETITIONS.

AGRICULTURAL RATES ACT 1896.—Petitions against re-enactment, from Cardiff; and Burnley; to lie upon the Table 557

BEER BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Leicester; and Halvergate; to lie upon the Table 557

BURIAL PLACES (EXEMPTION FROM RATES) (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Renfrew, in favour; to lie upon the Table 557

CHURCH DISCIPLINE.—Petition from Attleborough, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table 558

COAL MINES (EMPLOYMENT) BILL.—Petition from Buckley, in favour; to lie upon the Table 558

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).—Petitions for alteration of Law, from Burnley; Barry; Northampton; Wolverhampton; and Bacup; to lie upon the Table 558

INHABITED HOUSE DUTY AND INCOME TAX.—Petition from Blackheath and other places, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table 558

INMAN, JAMES.—Petition of James Inman, for redress of grievances; to lie upon the Table 558

LICENSING (SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS).—Petition from Lindfield, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table 558

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT (1894) AMENDMENT BILL.—Petition from Renfrew, in favour; to lie upon the Table 558

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.—Petition from Buckley, in favour; to lie upon the Table 558

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Officers of the Indian Staff Corps.—Petition of Captain F. H. Domenichetti, for redress of grievances; to lie upon the Table 558

Parliamentary Franchise.—Petition from Halifax, for extension to women; to lie upon the Table 558

Police Superannuation (Scotland) Bill.—Petition from Rothesay, against; to lie upon the Table 559

Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, 1896.—Petitions for alteration of Law, from Nottingham; Stafford; Pontypool; Ledbury; and Esher, in favour; to lie upon the Table 559

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors on Sunday Bill.—Petitions from Esher, in favour; to lie upon the Table 559

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children Bill.—Petition from Banff, against; to lie upon the Table 559

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children Bill.—Petitions in favour, from Sheffield (ninety-seven); Airdrie; Hamilton (two); Sussex; Pontardulais; Gorseinon (two); Manchester (twenty-three); Llanidloes (five); Lower Broughton; Lincoln (five); Altrincham (two); Hoole; Chester (thirty-five); Bridport (two); North Salford (eight); Saltney (two); Fulham (two); Cullompton; Hither Green (two); Lockwood; Teign mouth; Forest Hill; Huddersfield (four); St. Leonards (nine); Woking; Crayford; Bury (two); Wilmington; Dartford; Edinburgh (eleven); Rochester; Okehampton; West Devon; Rawtenstall (two); Oldham (three); Llanrwst; Everton (seven); Ilford; Crosland Moor; Bonnybridge; Strathcarron; Liverpool (thirty-one); Stonehouse; Croston; Chorley (six); Newton Heath; Cardiff (twelve); Mid Glamorgan; Cadoxton; Grangtown (two); Barry; Gargrave; Bacup; Nelson; Stockport (five); Leeds (thirty-five); New Wortley (three); Bramley (two); Kingston-on-Thames; Armley (five); Lewisham (two); Truro; Deptford (ten); Maryport; Holbeck (two); Hull (six); Walthamstow; Birmingham (eight); Nottingham (five); Preston (two); Worthing (three); Heaton; Hastings (eight); Hammersmith (two); Meopham (two); Rhyl (four); Ancoats; Milton; Cavendish; Ruabon; Ponkey; Fowey; Chisworth; Bradwell; Buxton; Bath (two); Cheltenham; Hayfield; Seaford; Silverdale; Tunstall; Eccles (two); Stockbridge; Barnsbury; Eastbourne; Leigh (four); Lowton; Hailsham; Gorton; Longsight; Hulme; Leeswood; Beighton; Bamsford; Tyldesley; West Bromwich (nine); Settle; Walmer; Whitstable; Ringmer; Wortley; Herne Bay; Atherton; Deal (two); Uphall; Springbourn; Glasgow (twenty); Stratford; Forest Gate; Hurgate; Ilfracombe; York (eight); Swinton (three); Walkden; Pendlebury; Hunslet (eleven); Plymouth (nine); Worsley (two); Weston; Farnley (four); Bristol (seventeen); Hungerford; Wynchcomb; Caistor; Ecclesfield (three); Lancaster; Appleby; Easingwold; Leadhills; Downfield; Mains; Aberdeen (two); Kennington (four); Risca; Bletchley; Newcastle-under-Lyme; Tarbrax; Onslow Square; Saffron Walden (two); West Newington; South Kensington; Tilehurst; Hindley Green; Weston; Lamberhead Green (two); Belgrave Hall; Leicester (eleven); Dumfries; Tonyrefail; South Lambeth; Rock Ferry (eight); Salford (seven); Dinas (two); Tonypandy (two); Llwynpia; Trealaw; Chiswick; Port Sunlight (two); Ealing (seven); Haven Green (three); Clydach; Gowerton; Llansamlet; West Glamorgan (two); Bromley; Birkenhead (nineteen); Berwickshire; Sevenoaks (two); Leatherhead; Skipton; Petersham; Mortlake; Llanfairfechan; Winchmore Hill; Powerstock; Abercarn (two);

ditch; Acocks Green; Kingsbridge (three); Romford; Upton Park; Sherborne; Glanadda (two); Pwllheli; Totnes; Somerset; Shirebrook; Somerton; Wincanton; Henstridge; Newark; Hornsea; Buckfastleigh (three); Castle Cary; North West Surrey; Bucklow; Willingdon; Ore; Furness Vale; Richmond (Surrey) (two); Amberley; Redditch; Chippenham; Guisborough; and Caersws; to lie upon the Table 559

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL:—

Petitions against, from Scottish Licence Trade Defence Association; Kirriemuir; and Border Counties Wine, Spirit, and Beer Trade Defence Association; to lie upon the Table.

Petitions in favour, from Dunkeld; Dalbeattie; Shettlestone (two); Coatdyke (two); Coatbridge (two); Auldearn; Macduff; Dundee (nine); Edinburgh (four); Pitlochry; Glasgow (eleven); Vale of Leven; Stromness; Locharbriggs; Waterbeck; Penpont; Dufftown; Brechin (four); Rothesay; Kirkintilloch; Ayr (two); Greenock; Paisley (six); Carnoustie; Alva; Lochee; Perth; Mortlach; Pontgordon; Portessie; Aberdour; Thornton; Pollokshields (two); Gamrie; Inverbervie; Stenhousemuir; Montrose; Thornbridge; Laurieston; Tranent; Buckie; St. Cyrus; Dumfries (six); Peterculter; Ayton; Bonnyrigg; Govanhill; Govan (four); Newhaven; Ceres; Musselburgh (two); Troon; Muirkirk; Kirk Wynd; Dunipace; Maybole; Duns (two); Bridge of Allan; Bannockburn; Cupar; Colmsnell; Laurieston; Denny; New Kilpatrick; Kirkcaldy (two); Darval; Anderston; Inverness (two); Nikhill; Barrhead; Saltcoats; Stewarton; Kilmarnock; Golspie; Kilmalcolm; Bellshill; Elie; Carluke; Scottish Temperance Federation; Nairn; Strathpeffer; Riccarton; Kirkmaiden; Kirkcowan; Coylton; Galston (three); Newmilns; Parton; Peebles (three); Alyth; Granton; Leith (three); Kirriemuir; Broughty Ferry; Coldstream; and Bonhill; to lie upon the Table.

Petition from Edinburgh, for alteration; to lie upon the Table .. 564

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NATIONAL DEBT ANNUITIES.—Account presented of the gross Amount of all Bank Annuities and any Annuities for terms of years transferred, and of all sums of money paid to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, and the Gross Amount of Annuities for Lives and for terms of years, etc., granted within the year ended 5th January, 1901 [by Act]: to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 88.] 565

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL V. LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.—Return presented relative thereto [ordered 19th March; *Sir Thomas Esmonde*]: to lie upon the Table 565

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children Bill.—Order for Second Reading read.

Mr. James Lowther (*Kent, Thanet*) 565
Mr. Crombie (*Kincardineshire*) 567
Sir William Houldsworth (*Manchester, N.W.*) 573

Motion made, and Question proposed—

" That the Bill be now read a second time."

Major Jameson (Clare, W.) 578
Mr. Tully (Leitrim, S.) 585

Amendment proposed—

" To leave out the word ' now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words ' upon this day six months.' "—(*Major Jameson*).

Question proposed, " That the word ' now ' stand part of the Question."

Mr. Reginald Lucas (Portsmouth) 590
Mr. Tomkinson (Cheshire, Crewe) 593
Mr. Flower (Bradford W.) 595
Mr. O'Shaughnessy (Limerick, W.) 602
Mr. Middlemore (Birmingham, N.) 605
Mr. Haldane (Haddingtonshire) 607
The Under Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Jesse Collings, Birmingham, Bordesley) 609
Sir William Harcourt (Monmouthshire, W.) 615
Mr. Bartley (Islington, N.) 619
Colonel Saunderson (Armagh, N.) 620
Mr. Marshall Hall (Lancashire, Southport) 622

Mr. Crombie rose in his place, and claimed to move, " That the Question be now put."

Question put, " That the Question be now put."

The House divided: Ayes, 407; Noes, 31. (Division List No. 80.)

Question put accordingly, " That the word ' now ' stand part of the Question."

The House divided: Ayes, 372; Noes, 54. (Division List No. 81.)

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for to-morrow.

NEW BILLS.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—Bill to amend the Law relating to Weights and Measures, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Bousfield, Mr. Parkes, Mr. Kearley, and Sir Fortescue Flannery.

Weights and Measures Bill.—" To amend the Law relating to Weights and Measures," presented and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 17th April, and to be printed. [Bill 109.] 631

OLD AGE PENSIONS (No. 5).—Bill to make provision for Old Age Pensions, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Bousfield, Mr. Strutt, Mr. J. W. Wilson, and Mr. Laurence Hardy.

Old Age Pensions (No. 5) Bill.—" To make provision for old Age Pensions," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 17th April, and to be printed. [Bill 110.] 632

Adjourned at a quarter before Six of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: THURSDAY, 21st MARCH, 1901.

Took the Oath.—The Lord Bishop of Oxford took the Oath 633

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with:—Worcester Tramways. The same was ordered to lie upon the Table 633

Standing Orders Committee.—Report from, That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Watford and District Tramways Bill [H.L.] ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed, provided that Tramway No. 7 and such parts of Tramways Nos. 1 and 11 as are within the district of the Watford Rural District Council be struck out of the Bill. Read, and agreed to 633

London (City) School for Orphans of Freemen Bill [H.L.]; Lowestoft Corporation Bill [H.L.].—Reports of His Majesty's Attorney General received, and ordered to lie on the Table 633

King's Norton and Northfield Urban District Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Aire and Calder Navigation Bill [H.L.]; Bournemouth Corporation Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee adjourned this day at Two o'clock; and pray leave not to sit again till Monday next; read, and leave given 633

St. Bartholomew's Hospital Bill [H.L.]; Great Southern and Western Railway Bill [H.L.].—Committed; The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 634

Christ's Hospital (London) Bill [H.L.]; Leeds Churches Bill [H.L.]—Committed 634

Bethlem Hospital Bill [H.L.]; Bridewell Hospital Bill [H.L.]; Lowestoft Corporation Bill [H.L.]; London (City) School for Orphans of Freemen Bill [H.L.].—Read 2*a* (according to order) 634

Llanelly and Mynydd Mawr Railway Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Select Committee, That the promoters do not intend to proceed further with the Bill. Ordered that the Bill be not further proceeded with .. 634

Handsworth Urban District Council Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn; read, and ordered to lie on the Table. The orders made on the 8th March and Friday last discharged; and Bill committed 634

Llanelly Harbour Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn; read, and ordered to lie on the Table. The orders made on the 8th March and Friday last discharged; and Bill committed 634

Aspatria, Silloth, and District Water Bill [H.L.]. Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn; read, and ordered to lie on the Table. The orders made on the 8th March and Friday last discharged; and Bill committed forthwith 634

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PRIVATE AND PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION BILLS.—Ordered, That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Thursday, the 27th day of June next; That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill originating in this House shall be read a first time after Thursday, the 9th day of May next; That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Thursday, the 27th day of June next; That when a Bill shall have passed this House with Amendment these orders shall not apply to any new Bill sent up from the House of Commons which the Chairman of Committees shall report to the House is substantially the same as the Bill so amended; That this House will not receive any petition for a Private Bill later then Thursday, the 9th day of May next, unless such Private Bill shall have been approved by the High Court of Justice; nor any petition for a Private Bill approved by the High Court of Justice after Friday, the 17th day of May next; That this House will not receive any report from the Judges upon petitions presented to this House for Private Bills after Friday, the 17th day of May next. Ordered, That the said orders be printed and published, and affixed on the doors of this House and Westminster Hall. (No. 24.) 635

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ARMY.—I. (Royal Military Academy, Woolwich)—Report of the Board of Visitors for 1900; II. (Royal Military College, Sandhurst)—Report of the Board of Visitors for 1900; III. Finding of a Court of Inquiry, held at Barberton on 25th September, 1900, to investigate the circumstances under which Lieutenant-Colonel B. E. Spragge, D.S.O., 13th Battalion Imperial Yeomanry, and others, became prisoners of war 636

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—No. 2562, France (Havre); No. 2563, Italy (Ancona); No. 2564, Japan (Hiogo and Osaka). Presented (by command) and ordered to lie on the Table 636

NATIONAL DEBT (ANNUITIES).—Account of the gross amount of all bank annuities and any annuities for terms of years transferred, and of all sums of money paid to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt; and the gross amount of annuities for lives and for terms of years which have been granted for the same, and contracts for payments on death, which have been made within the year ended 5th January, 1901; laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie upon the Table 636

SCOTTISH PRIVATE BILL LEGISLATION—LOCAL INQUIRIES.

The Earl of Glasgow 636
The Secretary for Scotland (Lord Balfour of Burleigh) 637

EARLY CLOSING OF SHOPS.—The evidence taken before the Select Committee from time to time to be printed for the use of the Members of this House; but no copies thereof to be delivered except to members of the Committee until further order 639

NEW BILLS.

Polling Arrangements (Parliamentary Boroughs) Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to amend the law relating to the arrangement of polling districts in Parliamentary boroughs. (No. 22.) 639

Polling Districts (County Councils) Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to make further provision with respect to the arrangement of polling districts for the election of county councillors. (No. 23.) 639

Presented by the Lord Ribblesdale; read 1*a*; to be printed, and to be read 2*a* on Tuesday next.

CHINA—ANGLO-RUSSIAN DISPUTE AT TIENTSIN.—Question, Earl Spencer, Answer, The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (The Marquess of Lansdowne) 639

Intoxicating Liquor (Sale to Travellers) Bill [H.L.].—[SECOND READING.] —Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

The Lord Bishop of Winchester 642

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2*a*."—(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester.*)

Discussion :—

Lord Norton 650
Lord Belper 651
The Earl of Aberdeen 655
The Earl of Camperdown 656
The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury 657
The Lord Archbishop of York 659
The Prime Minister and Lord Privy Seal (The Marquess of Salisbury) 659
Earl Spencer 663
The Lord Bishop of Hereford 664

On Question, their Lordships divided :—Contents, 45; Not-Contents, 51. Resolved in the negative.

Berwickshire County Town Bill [H.L.].—Read 3*a* (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons 667

LUDGATE HILL AND SNOW HILL RAILWAY STATIONS.

Discussion :—

Lord Monkswell.... 667
The Earl of Hardwicke 670

THE ROYAL DECLARATION AGAINST ROMAN CATHOLICISM.

The Marquess of Salisbury 671

Moved, To resolve that it is desirable that a Joint Committee of both Houses be appointed to consider the Declaration required of the Sovereign, on his accession, by the Bill of Rights (1 Will. III. cap. 21 s. 1); and to report whether its language can be modified advantageously, without diminishing its efficacy, as a security for the maintenance of the Protestant succession.—(*The Lord Privy Seal.*)

The Earl of Camperdown 672
Earl Spencer 672
Lord Herries 672

On Question, agreed to; Ordered, That a Message be sent to the Commons to communicate this Resolution, and to desire their concurrence.

House adjourned at five minutes before Seven of the clock.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS: THURSDAY, 21ST MARCH, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Wallasey Improvement Bill. [BY ORDER] 673

Mr. Strachey (Somersetshire, S.) 673

Motion made, and Question proposed,—

"That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Wallasey Improvement Bill to insert the following Clause—

No scheme for the establishment of a superannuation or provident fund under this Act shall come into operation until it has been registered by the Registrar of Friendly Societies under the Friendly Societies Act."—(*Mr. Strachey.*)

Discussion :—

Mr. Charles M'Arthur (Liverpool Exchange) 677

Mr. Yoxall (Nottingham, W.) 679

Mr. Stevenson (Suffolk, Eye) 680

Colonel Pilkington (Lancashire, Newton) 680

Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil) 680

The Chairman of Committees (Mr. J. W. Lowther, Cumberland, Penrith) 681

Mr. John Ellis (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe) 682

Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick) 684

Mr. Daly (Monaghan, N.) 684

Motion made, and Question proposed,—

"That the Debate be now adjourned."—(*Mr. Field.*)

But Mr. Speaker being of opinion that the motion was an abuse of the rules of the House, put the Question thereon forthwith to the House.

The House divided :—Ayes, 102 ; Noes, 175. (Division List No. 82.)

Original Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 186 ; Noes, 114. (Division List No. 83.)

Ordered, That it be an instruction to the Committee on the Wallasey Improvement Bill to insert the following clause—

No scheme for the establishment of a superannuation or provident fund under this Act shall come into operation until it has been registered by the Registrar of Friendly Societies under the Friendly Societies Act.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz.:—Glasgow and South-Western Railway Bill ; Hull, Barnsley, and West Riding Junction Railway and Dock Bill ; Metropolitan Railway Bill ; North Eastern Railway Bill. Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time .. 689

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 63 COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 63 has been complied with, viz.:—Notting Hill Electric Lighting Bill. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time 690

PRIVATE BILL PETITION [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petition for the Worcester Tramways Bill, reported by the Chairman of Ways and Means as intended to originate in the House of Lords, the Standing Orders have been complied with 691

London County Council (Tramways and Street Widenings) Bill.—"To enable the London County Council to construct new tramways and to reconstruct and alter tramways in the county of London; to work tramways by electric traction; and to make new streets and street improvements; and for other purposes," read the first time; to be read a second time 691

Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill (By Order).—Read a second time and committed 691

Railway Bills (Group 1).—Ordered, That A. Horsburgh Campbell do attend the Committee on Group 1 of Railway Bills To-morrow, at half past Eleven of the clock 691

PETITIONS.

Beer Bill.—Petition from Bowes, in favour; to lie upon the Table 692

Elmentary Education (Higher Grade and Evening Continuation Schools).—Petition from Finchley, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table 692

Parliamentary Franchise.—Petition from West Woodburn, for extension to women; to lie upon the Table 692

Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, 1896.—Petitions for alteration of Law from Atcham and Milton next Sittingbourne; to lie upon the Table 692

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children Bill.—Petitions in favour, from Blaenavon; Spennymoor; Bowden Close; Hirwain (two); Byers Green; Bishop Auckland (eight); Luton (two); Whittington Moor; Liverpool (five); Salford (seven); Copford; Halifax (two); Bedfordshire; Leighton Buzzard; Durham; Pendleton (three); South Norwood (two); East Ham; Berwick-on-Tweed; Goole; Newcastle-on-Tyne (six); Nottingham (two); Wishaw; Benwell; Camperdown; Willington Quay; Cambusnethan; Overtown; Cardiff (ten); Chelmsford; St. Marylebone; Galashiels; Rhondda Valley; Ferndale; Hollinwood; Henley-on-Thames; Wolverhampton; Hawkhurst; Regent's Park; Edinburgh (two); Port Glasgow; Ticehurst; Stockport (two); Burwash Weald; Kirkintilloch (two); Sheffield (six); Jamestown: Birmingham (eight); Croydon; Birkenhead (two); Wigton; Newmilns; Clifton; Oswestry; Norwich (five); St. Budeaux; Wombwell (three); Oldham; Kingsteignton; Bury (three); West Salford; Hayfield; Woolfold; Clydebank; Kirkwall (two); Crosthwaite; Great Salkeld; Penrith; Weaste; Aston; Pontefract; Keswick; Lofthouse; Mirfield (three); Pudsey (three); Stanningley (two); Dewsbury; Llwynypia; Leeds (two); Churwell; Horsforth; Barnsley; Blodeuyn y Duffryn; Aldingbourne; Ilfracombe; Wrockwardine Wood; Hornsey Rise; Islington; Exmouth (six); Caledonian Road; Deptford Park; Patricroft; Walton Park; Greenock (four): Clevedon; Annan; Bradford; Ealing; Kilmarnock; Skegness; Sidmouth; Southend; Lyminster; Bristol (three); Hexham; Holly Park; Hunwick; Willington; Brecon; Aylestone; Woolwich; Bagslate; Rochdale (three); Heywood; Fordingbridge (two); Wakefield (two); Elgin (three); Crowborough; Chelsea; Withington (two); Lancaster (three); Glasgow (eight); Morison; Warmby; Dundee (two); St. Albans; East Dulwich; Corsham (two); Balsall Heath; Stedham; West Norwood; Forest Hill (two); Catford; Hastings; Ffynnon Groew; Mold Junction; Rossett; Peterhead; Easebourne; Loughborough Park; Oldland Common; Devizes; Stockbridge; Wandsworth; and Fishbourne; to lie upon the Table .. 692

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SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL AND SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Perth, in favour; to lie upon the Table 693

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Dundee; Lochee; Newmilns (two); Kinneil; Borrowstounness; Uphall; Whitburn (two); Kirkintilloch; Galashiels (two); Langton; Hawick; Glasgow (three); Kirkwall; Peebles; Erzie; Bowling; Greenock (six); Aberdeen (two); Rattray; Sandwick (five); and Charlestown; to lie upon the Table 693

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL v. LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.—Return [presented 20th March] to be printed. [No. 89.] 693

ARMY (ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY, WOOLWICH).—Copy presented, of Report of the Board of Visitors for 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. 693

ARMY (ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE, SANDHURST).—Copy presented, of Report of the Board of Visitors for 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. 694

ARMY.—Copy presented, of Finding of a Court of Inquiry, held at Barberton on the 25th September, 1900, to investigate the circumstances under which Lieut.-Colonel B. E. Spragge, D.S.O., 13th Battalion Imperial Yeomanry, and others, became prisoners of war [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 694

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE (ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND IRELAND).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 19th March; *Mr. Lough*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 90.] 694

IMPERIAL REVENUE (COLLECTION AND EXPENDITURE) GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 19th March; *Mr. Lough*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 91.] 694

CHARITY COMMISSION (ENGLAND AND WALES).—Copy presented, of Forty-eighth Report of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 694

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2,562 to 2,564 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 694

CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS (MAIDSTONE).—Ordered, That the Copy of the Judges' Report and Minutes of Evidence in the Maidstone Election Trial be printed. [No. 92.]—(*Mr. Attorney General.*) 694

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GENERAL BOTHA.—Question, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) 694

TRANSVAAL CIVIL ADMINISTRATION—MR. DOUGLAS FOSTER.—Question, Sir Brampton Gurdon (Norfolk, N.); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain .. 695

BOER PRISONERS—MRS. HERTZOG.—Question, Mr. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 696

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BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY'S ACCOUNTS.—Question, Mr. John Ellis (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 696

RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONCENTRATION OF STORES AT LADYSMITH.—Questions, Mr. Lambert (Devonshire, South Molton), and Mr. McKenna (Monmouthshire, N.); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 696

SOLDIERS' WIDOWS' PENSIONS.—Question, Mr. Kearley (Devonport); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 697

ALLEGED BOER ATROCITY AT TAAIBOSCH.—Question, Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton) 697

COMFORTS FOR THE TROOPS.—Questions, Mr. Mansfield (Lincolnshire, Spalding), Mr. Lambert, Mr. Bartley (Islington, N.), and Mr. Herbert Lewis (Flint Boroughs); Answers, Lord Stanley 699

REJECTED MARK IV. BULLETS.—Questions, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty), Mr. Keir Hardie, and Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny); Answers, Lord Stanley 699

SOLDIERS' KITS.—Mr. Keir Hardie; Answer, Lord Stanley 700

YEOMANRY TRAINING.—Question, Mr. Stock (Liverpool, Walton); Answer, Lord Stanley 700

BOY RECRUIT.—Question, Colonel Brookfield (Sussex, Rye); Answer, Lord Stanley 700

EBRINGTON BARRACKS, LONDONDERRY.—Question, The Marquess of Hamilton (Londonderry); Answer, Lord Stanley 701

ALDERSHOT ARMY SCHOOL.—Question, Mr. Yoxall (Nottingham, W.); Answer, Lord Stanley 701

DINGWALL BARRACK ACCOMMODATION.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Lord Stanley 702

SCOTTISH VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Lord Stanley 702

WRECK OF H.M.S. "SYBILLE."—Question, Sir John Colomb (Great Yarmouth); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) 702

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SALES OF ESTATES IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. O'Shaughnessy; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 731

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LABOURERS (IRELAND) ACTS.—Question, Mr. Jordan (Fermanagh, S.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 732

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BELFAST VALUATION.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 737

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MAIDEN ROCKS, LARNE.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 738

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IRISH BOARD OF WORKS—NEW CHAIRMAN.—Questions, Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Mr. Clancy, and Mr. John Redmond (Waterford); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 740

ROYAL DECLARATION AGAINST ROMAN CATHOLICISM.—Question, Mr. William Redmond; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 741

ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE POPE OF THE KING'S ACCESSION.—Questions, Mr. John Campbell and Mr. William Johnston (Belfast, S.); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 741

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RIGHTS.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 741

SUPPLY PROCEDURE—PROPOSED COMMITTEE.—Questions, Colonel Milward, Sir John Brunner, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, and Mr. Lambert; Answers Mr. A. J. Balfour 742

ISOLATION HOSPITALS.—Bill to amend the Isolation Hospitals Act, 1893, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Long, Mr. Attorney General, and Mr. Grant Lawson.

Isolation Hospitals Bill.—"To amend the Isolation Hospitals Act, 1893." presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 111.] 742

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SUPPLY.—NAVY ESTIMATES.—Order for Committee read.

Motion made, and Question proposed—
"That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair."

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPLAINS IN HIS MAJESTY'S NAVY :—

Mr. O'Dowd (*Sligo, S.*) 743

Amendment proposed—
"To leave out from the word 'That,' to the end of the Question, in order to add the words 'in the opinion of this House, Roman Catholic Chaplains in His Majesty's Navy should be placed upon the same footing as regards rank and pay as Chaplains in His Majesty's Army,' instead thereof."—(*Mr. O'Dowd.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

Discussion :—

Mr. Joyce (*Limerick*) 746
Sir Thomas Esmonde (*Wexford, N.*) 747
Mr. Dillon (*Mayo, E.*) 747
Mr. Black (*Banffshire*) 747
The Secretary to the Admiralty (*Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.*) 750
Mr. William Redmond (*Clare, E.*) 753
Mr. Samuel Young (*Cavan, E.*) 756
Sir J. Fergusson (*Manchester, N.E.*) 757
Mr. Power (*Waterford, E.*) 757
Mr. O'Doherty (*Donegal, N.*) 758
Mr. Macartney (*Antrim, S.*) 759
Dr. Thompson (*Monaghan, N.*) 760
Mr. J. P. Farrell (*Longford, N.*) 761
Mr. T. P. O'Connor (*Liverpool, Scotland*) 763
Major Jameson (*Clare, W.*) 765

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 154 ; Noes, 97. (Division List No. 84.)

Main Question again proposed.

THE GOVERNMENT'S NAVAL PROPOSALS :—

Mr. Edmund Robertson (*Dundee*) 767
Sir John Colomb (*Great Yarmouth*) 783
Mr. William Allan (*Gateshead*) 793
Mr. Fitzalan Hope (*Sheffield, Brightside*) 799
Mr. Kearley (*Devonport*) 802
Mr. William Redmond 809

It being midnight, the debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed to-morrow.

SUPPLY [MARCH 15TH].—Resolutions reported :—

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1901-2.

1. "That a number of Land Forces, not exceeding 450,000, all ranks, be maintained for the service of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland at Home and Abroad, excluding His Majesty's Indian Possessions, during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

2. "That a sum not exceeding, £21,657,500, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge for the Pay, Allowances, and other Charges of His Majesty's Army at Home and Abroad (exclusive of India) (General Staff, Regiments, Reserve, and Departments), which will come in due course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

Resolutions read a second time.

First Resolution :—
Motion made and Question proposed—

"That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

The House divided: Ayes, 208; Noes, 55. (Division List No. 85.)

Second Resolution :—

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Mr. William Redmond 815
Mr. Daly (Monaghan, S.) 818
Mr. J. P. Farrell 819
Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland) 820
Mr. O'Mara (Kilkenny, S.) 822
The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) .. 826
Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick) 828

Mr. A. J. Balfour rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided: Ayes, 140; Noes, 66; (Division List No. 86.)

Adjourned at a Quarter after Two of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: FRIDAY, 22ND MARCH, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Worcester Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Presented, read 1*a*, and referred to the Examiners 833

Arlesey Gas Bill [H.L.]; Newcastle upon-Tyne and Gateshead Gas Bill [H.L.]; Folkestone Corporation Bill [H.L.]—Reported with amendments.. 833

Charing Cross, Hammersmith, and District Electric Railway Bill [H.L.]; King's Road Railway Bill [H.L.].—Committed: the Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.. 833

North-East London Railway Bill [H.L.].—A petition of Messrs. Batten, Proffitt, and Scott, of 32, Great George Street, Westminster, Parliamentary Agents, praying for leave to present a petition of Messrs. Baring Brothers and Company, Limited, praying to be heard by counsel against the Bill, although the time limited by Standing Order No. 92 for presenting such petition has expired; read, and ordered to lie on the Table; and Standing Order No. 92 to be considered on Monday next in order to its being dispensed with 833

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PATENT ACTS.—Appendices to the Report of the Committee appointed by the Board of Trade (including Minutes of evidence). 833

CHARITY COMMISSION (ENGLAND AND WALES).—Fifty-eighth Report of the Charity Commissioners

Presented (by command) and ordered to lie on the Table 833

TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1898 (ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS' DEFERRED ANNUITY FUNDS, ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND).—Accounts of the Elementary School Teachers' Deferred Annuity Funds, England and Scotland, for the year ended 31st March, 1900, together with the Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon; laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 834

Prevention of Corruption Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to check corruption was placed by the Lord Alverstone; read 1*a*; to be printed; and to be read 2*a* on Thursday next. (No. 25.) 834

NATIVE PUBLICATIONS IN INDIA—CHARGE AGAINST MR. MALABARI.

Discussion:—

Lord Stanley of Alderley 834
The Under Secretary of State for India (*The Earl of Hardwicke*).. 837
Lord Reay 839
Lord Sandhurst 840
The Earl of Northbrook 840
The Earl of Hardwicke 841

LONDON UNDERGROUND RAILWAYS.

Moved, "That a Committee of five Lords be appointed to join with a Committee of the House of Commons to consider and report upon the subject of London Underground Railways."—(*The Chairman of Committees.*)

Agreed to.

The Lords following were named of the Committee:—E. Lauderdale, E. Rosse, V. Knutsford, L. Windsor, and L. Herries.

Ordered, That such Committee have power to agree with the Committee of the House of Commons in the appointment of a chairman.

Then a message was ordered to be sent to the House of Commons to acquaint them therewith, and to request them to appoint five Members of that House to be joined with the said Committee pursuant to the Resolution of this House of the 4th instant, and to the Message of the House of Commons of the 7th instant, signifying their concurrence in the said Resolution 841

DELIVERY OF PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS.

Lord Tweedmouth 842
The Lord President of the Council (*the Duke of Devonshire*) .. 843

House adjourned at Five of the clock, to Monday next.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRIDAY, 22ND MARCH, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 1).—Bill to confirm two Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to St. Marylebone, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Gerald Balfour and Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland 843

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Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill.—"To confirm two Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to St. Marylebone," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 112] 843

Heckmondwike Gas (Transfer) Bill.—Reported [Preamble not proved]; Report to lie upon the Table 843

PETITIONS.

BEER BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Stalham; Hadleigh; Linton; Billesdon; Gloucestershire; Sudbury; and Sawston; to lie upon the Table 843

COAL MINES (EMPLOYMENT) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Shieldhill; Hill of Beath; Oakley; Blairadam; Blairhall; Wemyss; Townhill; Wellsgreen; Fordell; Buckhaven; East Wemyss; Methil; and Raith; to lie upon the Table 843

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).—Petitions for alteration of Law, from Littleborough; and Heworth; to lie upon the Table 843

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Shieldhill; Oakley; Methil; Blairadam; Hill of Beath; Condenbeath; East Wemyss; Blairhall; Fordell; Buckhaven; Wellsgreen; Townhill; and Wemyss; to lie upon the Table 843

OFFICERS OF THE INDIAN STAFF CORPS.—Petition of Lieutenant E. G. Sexton and Captain J. M. Tighe, for redress of grievances; to lie upon the Table .. 844

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1896.—Petition from Guildford, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table 845

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL—Petitions in favour, from Redditch; Walworth; Stratford; South Woodford (three); Burnage; Edinburgh (three); Reading; Ince-in-Makerfield; Codicote; Ayr; Newcastle-on-Tyne (four); Kippax; Barnstaple; Four Elms; Glasgow (two); Govan; Cambridge; Peckham; Guildford; Leytonstone (six); Walthamstow (two); Leyton; Woodford; Bristol; Middlesbrough (three); Bedminster; Viewforth; Sedbergh; Littleborough; Ledbury (two); Newbury (three); Clitheroe; Sheffield (ten); Birmingham (five); Brixton (two); Kennington (two); Pemberton; Plymouth; Elland; Ripon; Carlisle (four ; Allonby; Brynn (two); Longtown; Waverton; Holbeck; Wortley; Armley (three); Bramley; New Wortley; Leeds (twelve); Bradford (Yorks); Bispham; Leith; Ashton-in-Makerfield; Sutton-upon-Hull; Egremont; Hyde (two); North Ormesby (two); Withington; Hereford; Paignton; Longsight; Burnham; Weston-super-Mare; Milton; Beverley; Kendal; Nailsea; Wadebridge; Port Isaac (three); Fulham (two); Aberdeen City; St. Andrews; Jarrow (fourteen); Durham; Norwood; South Norwood; Stalybridge; Marylebone; Manchester (three); Square; Truro; West Hampstead; Ealing; Alford (two); Deeside; Poynton; Openshaw; Hull (five); Dunfermline; Burnham; Windsor; Spilsby; Horncastle (two); Barradon; Widdrington; Seghill; Lanivet; Penzance; Newlyn; Liverpool; Shanklin; Derby; Warrington; Hanworth; and Highbridge; to lie upon the Table 845

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children (Scotland) Bill.—Petitions in favour, from Methlick; Girvan; Govan; Snizort; Edinburgh (two); Bothwell; Riccarton: Dunnichen (two); Leith; Carnoustie; Lundie; Milngavie; Troon; Dunfermline; Stirling; Halbeath; Kelton; Brechin; Montrose (two); Leslie; and Arbroath; to lie upon the Table 845

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Patent Acts.—Copy presented, of Appendices to the Report of the Committee appointed by the Board of Trade to inquire into the working of the Patent Acts on certified specified suggestions [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 846

Wines Imported.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 14th March; *Mr. T. R. Dewar*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 93.] .. 846

Colonial Loans Act, 1899.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 11th March; *Mr. Austen Chamberlain*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 94.] 846

Education (Elementary School Teachers).—Copy presented, of Accounts of the Elementary School Teachers' Deferred Annuity Funds, England and Scotland, for the year ended 31st March, 1900, together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 95.] 846

Trawl Vessels (Prosecutions).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 26th February; *Mr. Cathcart Wason*]; to lie upon the Table 846

University of Aberdeen.—Copy presented, of Abstract of Accounts of the University of Aberdeen for the year ending 15th September, 1900 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 96.] 846

Emigration Statistics (Ireland).—Copy presented, of Emigration Statistics of Ireland for the year 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 846

Sunday Closing (Wales) Act (1881) Amendment Bill.—Second Reading deferred from Monday next till Wendesday, 1st May 846

Controverted Elections (Cockermouth).—Ordered, That the copy of the Judges' Report in the Cockermouth Election Trial be printed.—(*Mr. Attorney General.*) [No. 97] 847

QUESTIONS.

South African War—Train Wrecking at Taaibosch.—Question, Mr. Haviland Burke (King's County, Tullamore): Answer, the Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 847

Hospitals—Proposed Committee of Experts.—Question, Dr. Thompson (Monaghan, N.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 848

Peace Negotiations with Boer Leaders.—Questions, Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.), Mr. Trevelyan (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland), and Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.); Answers, the Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) 848

Plague at Capetown.—Question, Mr. John Campbell (Armagh, S.); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 849

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LAND SETTLEMENT COMMISSION.—Question, Mr. John Ellis (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 849

MARK IV. BULLETS.—Questions, Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny) and Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answers, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton) 849

GORDON HIGHLANDERS—MILITIA BATTALION.—Question, Dr. Farquharson (Aberdeenshire, W.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 850

YEOMANRY—MARCHING ALLOWANCES.—Question, Mr. Seely (Lincoln); Answer, Lord Stanley 851

MILITIA ALLOWANCES.—Question, Captain Jessel (St. Pancras, S.); Answer, Lord Stanley 851

ARREARS OF SOLDIERS' PAY.—Question, Sir Joseph Leigh (Stockport); Answer, Lord Stanley 851

TURBINE MACHINERY TESTS.—Question, Sir Thomas Wrightson (St. Pancras, E.); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) 852

TRAINING SHIP CRUISES.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 852

INDIAN CURRENCY ACT—GOLD RESERVE.—Question, Sir Edward Sassoon (Hythe); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Lord G. Hamilton, Middlesex, Ealing) 852

CHINA—RUSSIA AND MANCHURIA.—Questions, Mr. William Redmond and Mr. James O'Kelly (Roscommon, N.); Answers, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Viscount Cranborne, Rochester) 852

PATENT ACTS—COMMITTEE'S REPORT.—Question, Sir John Leng (Dundee) and Mr. Stuart-Wortley (Sheffield, Hallam); Answers, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central) 854

BRUSSELS CONFERENCE ON PATENTS, ETC.—Question, Mr. Stuart-Wortley; Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 854

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY—GOODS RATES.—Question, Major Rasch; Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 854

MALLAIG RAILWAY.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour .. 855

HORTICULTURAL EXPERIMENTS.—Question, Sir James Rankin (Herefordshire, Leominster); Answer, The President of the Board of Agriculture (Mr. Hanbury, Preston) 855

SUMMARY JURISDICTION.—Question, Sir James Rankin; Answer, The Under Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Jesse Collings, Birmingham, Bordesley) 856

TUBERCULOSIS.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.) 856

TEACHERS' DISABLEMENT ALLOWANCES.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.); Answer, The Vice-President of the Board of Education (Sir J. Gorst, Cambridge University) 857

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IRISH DRIFT SURVEY.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Sir J. Gorst 858

LEGITIMIST JACOBITE LEAGUE.—Question, Mr. William Redmond; Answer, The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's) 858

TELEPHONE CHARGES AT SHIELDS.—Question, Mr. Leverton Harris (Tynemouth); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) 859

DUCHY OF CORNWALL ROYALTIES.—Question, Mr. Strachey (Somersetshire, S.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 859

ILLEGAL TRAWLING IN SCOTTISH WATERS.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, The Lord Advocate (Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire) 860

ILLEGAL TRAWLING IN BROAD BAY.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. A. Graham Murray 861

ILLEGAL TRAWLING OFF THE ISLAND OF FOULA.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland); Answer, Mr. A. Graham Murray 861

POULTRY BREEDING IN THE HIGHLANDS.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. A. Graham Murray 862

AVOCH HARBOUR.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. A. Graham Murray 862

GREENOCK BOARD SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien (Cork); Answer, Mr. A. Graham Murray 863

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LIMERICK LUNATIC ASYLUM.—Questions, Mr. Lundon (Limerick, E.) and Mr. William Redmond; Answers, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) 864

DONEGAL SUB-LAND COMMISSION.—Question, Mr. Boyle (Donegal, W.); Answer Mr. Wyndham 864

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IRISH WORKHOUSE AMALGAMATION.—Questions, Mr. Daly and Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.); Answers, Mr. Wyndham 865

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LIMAVADY WATER SUPPLY.—Question, Mr. O'Doherty; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 869

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ROYAL CANAL HARBOUR, LONGFORD.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. J. Wyndham 870

LONGFORD RESIDENT MAGISTRATE.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 871

BANSHA GRAVEYARD.—Question, Mr. Cullinan (Tipperary, S.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 871

DROMARD PETTY SESSIONS.—Question, Mr. John Campbell; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 872

LURGAN DISTURBANCES.—Question, Mr. John Campbell; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 872

NORTH DONEGAL FISHERIES.—Question, Mr. O'Doherty; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 873

IRISH RAILWAY GUARANTEES.—Question, Mr. Condon (Tipperary, E.); Answer, The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.) 873

PROPOSED IRISH DEPARTMENT AT THE BOARD OF TRADE.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 873

COUNTY DOWN POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.—Question, Mr. Daly; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 874

PORTUMNA POSTMAN.—Question, Mr. Roche (Galway, E.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 875

DUBLIN SORTING OFFICE—DEFALCATIONS.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 876

ENNISKILLEN POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Jordan (Fermanagh, S.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 877

WEST AUSTRALIA AND IRISH HOME RULE.—Question, Mr. William Redmond; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 877

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS IN THE TWO HOUSES—SUGGESTED TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATION.—Questions, Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Mr. Corrie Grant (Warwickshire, Rugby), Mr. Herbert Lewis (Flint Boroughs), Mr. Edmund Robertson (Dundee), Mr. Crean (Cork, S.E.), and Mr. William Redmond; Answers, Mr. Akers-Douglas and the First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 877

PROPOSED QUESTION LIMITATION.—Question, Mr. Renwick (Newcastle-on-Tyne) and Major Rasch; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 881

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—EASTER HOLIDAYS.—Question, Sir John Leng (Dundee); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 881

Housing of the Working Classes Bill.—Order for Second Reading upon Thursday, 18th April, read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn 881

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS—DECLARATION AGAINST TRANSUBSTANTIATION :—

That they have come to the following Resolution, namely: "That it is desirable that a Joint Committee of both Houses be appointed to consider the Declaration required of the Sovereign, on His Accession, by the Bill of Rights (1 Will. III., cap. 2, s. 1); and to report whether

its language can be modified advantageously, without diminishing its efficacy as a security for the maintenance of the Protestant Succession."

That they have passed a Bill intituled, "An Act to constitute the town of Duns to be the head burgh or county town of Berwickshire." Berwickshire County Town Bill. [Lords.] 881

Berwickshire County Town Bill [LORDS].—Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 882

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS IN THE TWO HOUSES—MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.—Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs) rose in his place, and asked leave to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, "the failure yesterday of His Majesty's Government to give to this House information on a critical situation in foreign affairs, while such communication was made to the other House of Parliament"; but the pleasure of the House not having been signified, Mr. Speaker called on those Members who supported the motion to rise in their places, and not less than forty Members having accordingly risen—

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs) 882

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That this House do now adjourn."

Discussion:—

The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 885
Sir William Harcourt (Monmouthshire, W.) 887
Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett (Sheffield, Ecclesall) 890
Mr. Joseph Walton (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley) 891
Mr. Herbert Lewis (Flint Boroughs) 892
Mr. Bartley (Islington, N.) 893
Mr. Philipps (Pembrokeshire) 894
The Secretary of State for India (Lord G. Hamilton, Middlesex, Ealing) 895
Mr. Lambert (Devonshire, South Molton) 897
Mr. Lloyd-George (Carnarvon Borough) 899
Mr. Malcolm (Suffolk, Stowmarket) 901
Mr. Power (Waterford, E.) 902
Mr. John Ellis (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe) 903
Mr. O'Shee (Waterford, W.) 904
Mr. Robson (South Shields) 906
Mr. Clancy (Dublin County, N.) 908
Colonel Pryce-Jones (Montgomery Boroughs) 909
Mr. C. P. Scott (Lancashire, Leigh) 910
Dr. Ambrose (Mayo, W.) 911
Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.) 911

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 168; Noes, 250. (Division List No. 88.)

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE (EXEMPTION FROM THE STANDING ORDER):—

Motion made and Question put—

"That the Business of Supply, if under discussion at Twelve o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order, Sittings of the House."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 248; Noes, 165. (Division List No. 89.)

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE (SATURDAY) :—

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That this House do meet to-morrow for the business of Supply unless Votes A and 1 in the Navy Estimates and the Excess Votes for Civil Services and Revenue Departments, 1899–1900, are previously disposed of."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.) 923

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out all the words after the word 'Supply,' in line 2, to the end of the Question."—(*Mr. Dillon.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

Mr. A. J. Balfour 925
Mr. Herbert Lewis 925

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Herbert Lewis 92
Mr. A. J. Balfour 92
Mr. Kearley (Devonport) 926
Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 926
Sir Fortescue Flannery (Yorkshire, Shipley) 927
Mr. Blake (Longford, S.) 927
Mr. A. J. Balfour 927
Mr. Edmund Robertson (Dundee) 928
Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) 928

Main Question, as amended, put, and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do meet to-morrow for the Business of Supply.

NEW BILLS.

COUNTY JUSTICES' CLERKS.—Bill to prohibit Clerks to Petty Sessional Divisions of Counties from undertaking prosecutions of persons committed for trial by the Justices of such Petty Sessional Divisions, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Lloyd Morgan, Mr. Abel Thomas, Mr. Lawson Walton, Mr. Brynmor Jones, and Mr. Wallace.

County Justices' Clerks Bill.—"To prohibit Clerks to Petty Sessional Divisions of Counties from undertaking prosecutions of persons committed for trial by the Justices of such Petty Sessional Divisions," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 17th April, and to be printed. [Bill 113.] 928

AGED PENSIONERS.—Bill to provide Pensions for aged deserving poor, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Goulding, Mr. John Hutton, Mr. Bousfield, Mr. Strutt, Mr. J. W. Wilson, Mr. Raymond-Greene, Mr. Morrison, Mr. Churchill, Mr. Carlile, and Colonel Williams.

Aged Pensioners Bill.—"To provide Pensions for aged deserving poor," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 18th April, and to be printed. [Bill 114.] 929

LOCAL AUTHORITIES OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION.—Bill to extend the provisions of the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, 1896, ordered to be brought in by Major Rasch, Mr. Sinclair, and Mr. Galloway.

Local Authorities Officers' Superannuation Bill.—"To extend the provisions of the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, 1896," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday, 1st April, and to be printed. [Bill 115.] 929

Registration of Firms.—Bill for the registration of Firms and Persons carrying on business under Trade Names, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Emmott, Mr. Heath, Sir Alfred Hickman, Mr. Holland, Mr. Oldroyd, and Mr. Walter Palmer.

Registration of Firms Bill.—"For the registration of Firms and Persons carrying on business under Trade Names," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 8th, May, and to be printed. [Bill 116.] 929

Supply (Navy Estimates).—Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Main Question [21st March], "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair.

Question again proposed.

Debate resumed.

Sir Fortescue Flannery (Yorkshire, Shipley) 930
Mr. Black (Banffshire) 941
Mr. Majendie (Portsmouth) 945
Mr. O'Doherty (Donegal, N.) 948
Mr. Macartney (Antrim, S.) 953
Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) 961
Mr. Daly (Monaghan, S.) 969
Mr. Nannetti (Dublin, College Green) 969
Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty) 970
Mr. John Redmond (Waterford) 972

Question put, "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair."

The House divided:—Ayes, 232; Noes, 52. (Division List No. 90.)

SUPPLY.—Considered in Committee.

[Mr. J. W. Lowther (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Navy Estimates, 1901–2.

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That 118,625 men and boys be employed for the Sea and Coast Guard Services for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902, including 19,805 Royal Marines."

The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) 975

Committee report Progress; to sit again to-morrow.

Adjourned at half-past Twelve of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: SATURDAY, 23rd MARCH, 1901.

The House met at Twelve of the clock.

Berwickshire County Town Bill [Lords].—Order [22nd March] referring the Bill to the Examiners read, and discharged. Bill to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 117.] 989

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PETITIONS.

BEER BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Lolworth; Carlton; Swavesey; Great Bradley; West Wickham; Stetchworth; Horseheath; Great Wratting; St. Ives; Haverhill; Little Bradley; Isleham; Warrington; Wickhambrook; Cambridge; and Salop; to lie upon the Table 989

COAL MINES (EMPLOYMENT) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Hornthorpes; Southgate; Barlborough; and Whitehaven; to lie upon the Table .. 989

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS). —Petition from Aberavon, for alteration of law; to lie upon the Table 989

INHABITED HOUSE DUTY AND INCOME TAX.—Petition from Westminster, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table 989

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Tipton; Whitehaven; Hornthorpes; Barlborough; Southgate; and Whitwell; to lie upon the Table 989

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.—Petitions for extension to women, from Motherwell; Bloomsbury and other places; Personal Rights Association; and Llanfairnantgwyn; to lie upon the Table 989

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Walsingham; and Wells (Norfolk); to lie upon the Table 989

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Heckmondwike (two); Morecambe (four); Bromley (five); Skerton; Iping; Galgate; Caerwys (three); Higher Broughton; Wigan (three); Atherton; Great Lever (two); Little Lever; Bolton (two); Glasgow; Manchester; Ruabon; Brymbo; Edgworth (two); Aspull; Swinton (two); Llangoed; Edinburgh; Bodedern; Cardiff; West Ham (four); Llangefni; Holborn; Lancaster (seven); Eccles (two); Llandefan; Llandegfan; Llanerchymedd; Brockley; Sydenham; Birstall (two); Liversedge (two); Bedfordshire; Sunderland; Halton; Sunningdale; Tullyallan; Beckenham; Widmore; Stirling; St. Giles; Atherington; Wealdstone; Harrow Weald; Tweedmouth; Plaistow; Tynemouth; Wincanton; Liverpool (three); East London; Ilkeston; New Hirst; St. George's-in-the-East (two); Sheffield (twenty-two); Peckham; Dumbarton; Littleborough; Macclesfield; Upholland; and Ecclesall Bierlow; to lie upon the Table 990

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Glasgow; Stirling; Lanark; Aberdeen; Lochmaben; Dumfries; Maxwelltown; Traquair; Aberfeldy; Lochans; Earlston; Shettleston; Beith; Edinburgh (three); Dunoon; and Jedbergh; to lie upon the Table 990

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

AMERICAN MAIL SERVICE.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 25th February; *Sir John Leng*]; to lie upon the Table 990

SUPERANNUATIONS.—Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 16th March, 1901, declaring that for the due and efficient discharge of the duties of the office of Junior Inspector (Science and Art) in the Department of Agriculture, etc., in Ireland, professional or other peculiar qualifications not ordinarily to be acquired in the Public Service are requisited [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 990

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COMMITTALS (IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Returns from Clerks of the Crown and Peace of the number of persons Committed for Trial in the year 1900 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 991

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GENERAL BOTHA.—Questions, Mr. John Ellis (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe) and Mr. Corrie Grant (Warwickshire, Rugby); Answers, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) and the Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 991

MAFEKING SIEGE—THEFT OF GOVERNMENT FOOD-STUFFS.—Question, Mr. John Campbell (Armagh, S.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 992

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY OF IRELAND—STRABANE COMPLAINT.—Question, Mr. O'Doherty (Donegal, N.); Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central) 992

SUSPECTED PLAGUE CASE AT SOUTHAMPTON.—Question, Mr. John Campbell; Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.) 993

BALLYBOFEY (DONEGAL)—SUB-POSTMASTERSHIP.—Question, Mr. M'Fadden (Donegal, E.); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) 994

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.—Question, Mr. O'Doherty—Question postponed 994

WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY SITTINGS—PRACTICE AS TO QUESTIONS.—Questions, Mr. John Redmond (Waterford) and Mr. O'Doherty; Answers, Mr. Speaker 994

SUPPLY.—Considered in Committee.

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1901–2.

A. Motion made, and question proposed, " That 118,625 men and boys be employed for the Sea and Coast Guard Services for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902, including 19,805 Royal Marines."

Discussion:—

Commander Young (Berkshire, Wokingham) 995
Mr. Joyce (Limerick) 1000
Mr. Penn (Lewisham) 1001
Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick's) 1002
Mr. Platt-Higgins (Salford, N.) 1005
The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) 1007
Mr. Kearley (Devonport) 1012
Mr. Ffrench (Wexford, S.) 1016
Mr. Power (Waterford, E.) 1017

Mr. A. J. Balfour rose in his place and claimed " That the Question be now put."

Question put, " That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 180; Noes, 94. (Division List No. 91.)

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Question put accordingly, "That 118,625 men and boys be employed for the Sea and Coast Guard Services for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902, including 19,805 Royal Marines."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 224 ; Noes, 54. (Division List No. 92.)

1. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £5,760,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expenses of Wages, etc., to Officers, Seamen and boys, Coast Guard, and Royal Marines, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

Mr. John Redmond 1025

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That the Chairman do report Progress ; and ask leave to sit again."—(*Mr. John Redmond.*)

The First Lord of the Treasury (*Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.*) 1029
Sir Fortescue Flannery 1031
Mr. William Redmond 1031
Mr. Power 1031
Mr. Patrick O'Brien (*Kilkenny*) 1032

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 64 ; Noes, 218. (Division List No. 93.)

Original question again proposed.

Mr. E. J. C. Morton (*Devonport*) 1035
Mr. Cochrane (*Ayrshire, N.*) 1040
Mr. Gilhooly (*Cork Co.,* W.) 1043
Mr. Nolan (*Louth, S.*) 1044
Mr. Arnold-Forster 1047
Mr. Flynn (*Cork, N.*) 1049
Major Jameson (*Clare, W.*) 1051
Mr. O'Shee (*Waterford, W.*) 1053

Mr. A. J. Balfour rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 177 ; Noes, 77. (Division List No. 94.)

Question put accordingly, "That a sum, not exceeding £5,760,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expenses of Wages, etc., to Officers, Seamen and Boys, Coast Guard, and Royal Marines, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 196 ; Noes, 53. (Division List No. 95.)

CIVIL SERVICES EXCESSES, 1899–1900 :—

2. £24 2s., Excesses.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next ; Committee to sit again upon Monday next 1059

WAYS AND MEANS—Considered in Committee:—

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

1. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for the Service of the years ending on the 31st day of March, 1900 and 1901, the sum of £5,229,355 2s. be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

Mr. John Redmond 1059

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (*Sir M. Hicks-Beach, Bristol,* W.) 1059

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for the Service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902, the sum of £44,721,500 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

Mr. John Redmond 1060

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee to sit again upon Monday next.

Adjourned at ten minutes before Seven of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: MONDAY, 25TH MARCH, 1901.

SAT FIRST.—The Viscount Esher sat first in Parliament after the death of his father 1061

TOOK THE OATH.—The Lord Byron took the Oath 1061

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Elland Gas Bill [H.L.].—Petition for additional provision, of the Elland-cum-Greetland Gas Company under their common seal; together with the clause and Amendments annexed thereto; read and referred to the Examiners 1061

South Lancashire Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Committed: The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 1061

Henry Diaper and Company (Delivery Warrants) Bill [H.L.].—Read 3*a*, and passed, and sent to the Commons 1061

North-East London Railway Bill [H.L.].—Standing Order No. 92 considered (according to order) and dispensed with, with respect to a petition 1061 of Messrs. Baring Brothers and Company, Limited: Leave given to present the said petition 1061

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Revised Regulations of 21st March, 1901, as to certificates of age, proficiency, and school attendance 1061

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UNITED STATES, No. (1901).—Correspondence respecting the Convention signed at Washington, 5th February, 1900, relative to the establishment of a communication by ship canal between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans 1061

EMIGRATION STATISTICS (IRELAND).—Report and tables for the year 1900 .. 1061

ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACTS, 1882 AND 1888.—Special Report by the Board of Trade, under Section 1, Electric Lighting Act, 1888; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill; St. Marylebone Electric Lighting (No. 2) Order, 1901 1061

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—No. 2565. Austria-Hungary (financial condition of Hungary) 1061

EXPLOSIVES (EXPLOSION AT A FELT HAT WORKS, DENTON, NEAR MANCHESTER).—Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, by Captain J. H. Thomson, His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Explosives, and H. S. Richmond, Esq., His Majesty's Superintending Inspector of Factories, on the circumstances and probable causes of the explosion which occurred at the felt hat works of Messrs. Joseph Wilson and Son, Denton, near Manchester, 14th January, 1901.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table 1061

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889.—Abstract of Accounts for the University of Aberdeen for the year ended 15th September, 1900, being the Annual Report on the state of the Finances of the University, under the provisions of Section 30 of the Act 1061

COMMITTALS (IRELAND).—Returns from Clerks of the Crown and Peace of the number of persons committed for trial in 1900 1061

SUPERANNUATION.—Treasury Minute, dated 16th March, 1901, declaring that for the due and efficient discharge of the duties of the office of junior inspector (science and art) in the Department of Agriculture, etc., in Ireland, professional or other peculiar qualifications not ordinarily to be acquired in the public service are required-

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 1061

SIR JOHN SOANE'S MUSEUM.—Statement of the funds, 5th January, 1901. Delivered (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 1061

PETITIONS.

TRAMWAYS (CONSENTS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES).—Petition against the amendment of Standing Order No. 22, of Wandsworth Corporation; read and ordered to lie on the Table 1063

INTOXICATING LIQUORS.—Petition against the sale of, on Sundays; of meeting at Chertsey; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 1063

Military Instruction (Schools and Cadets) Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to provide for the regulation of military instruction in schools and in cadet corps and companies and cadet battalions was presented by the Viscount Frankfort de Montmorency; read 1*a*; and to be printed. (No. 26.) .. 1063

Public Libraries Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to order). Clauses 1 to 9 agreed to.

Lord Newton 1063

Moved to insert as a new clause, " Where in any borough or urban district the building provided under the principal Act shall be damaged through the subsidence of the ground, any expense incurred by the Town Council or Urban District Council in the repair of the damage thereto shall not be reckoned for the purpose of any limitation of rate under Section 2 of that Act."—(*Lord Newton.*)

The Secretary for Scotland (*Lord Balfour of Burleigh*) 1064
Earl Spencer 1064
Lord Tweedmouth 1064
Lord Windsor 1064

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 10 :—
Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1065

Moved, " To leave out Clause 10."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)
Lord Windsor 1065

Amendment agreed to.

Moved, To insert as a new clause, 10, " This Act shall not apply to Scotland."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

New Clause agreed to.

Earl Spencer 1066
Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1066

Clause 11 agreed to.

Clause 12 :—
Lord Windsor 1066

Amendment moved—

" In line 6, to omit all words after ' library ' to the end of the clause, and to insert ' unless he has first instituted legal proceedings against the author, publisher, or printer, and that one of such persons has been convicted or adjudged to pay damages on account of the libellous matter contained in the said book.' "—(*Lord Windsor.*)

The Lord Chancellor (*The Earl of Halsbury*) 1067

Lord Avebury 1067

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 12, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 13 :—

Amendment moved—

" After line 35, to insert ' any expenses incurred by the Common Council of the City of London or by a metropolitan borough council under the Museums and Gymnasiums Act, 1891, so far as they are not defrayed by fees and other money received under the Act, shall be defrayed in the manner in which expenses incurred by that council under the principal Act are payable.' "—(*Lord Windsor.*)

Amendment agreed to.
Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Clause 13, as amended, agreed to.

Remaining Clause agreed to ; Bill recommitted to the Standing Committee ; and to be printed as amended. (No. 27.)

SCOTTISH PRESBYTERIAN SOLDIERS IN INDIA—USE OF GOVERNMENT CHURCHES :

Lord Stanley of Alderley 1068
The Under Secretary of State for India (*The Earl of Hardwicke*) .. 1070

PENSIONS TO DISABLED SOLDIERS :—
Lord Monkswell 1072
The Paymaster General (*The Duke of Marlborough*) 1073
The Earl of Northbrook 1078

House adjourned at a quarter before Six of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: MONDAY, 25TH MARCH, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Cromer Water Bill.—Read a second time and committed 1079

North British Railway Bill.—Petition for additional Provision; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 1080

Berwickshire County Town Bill [LORDS].—Ordered that the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills do examine the Berwickshire County Town Bill [Lords], with respect to compliance with the Standing Orders relative to Private Bills.—(*Mr. Long*) 1080

Wolverhampton and Cannock Chase Railway Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table and to be printed 1080

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP 2).—Colonel H. F. Bowles reported from the Committee on Group 2 of Railway Bills, that, there being no business ready for their consideration, they had adjourned until Wednesday next, at Eleven of the clock. Report to lie upon the Table 1080

PETITIONS.

BEER BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Alderton; and Ebrington; to lie upon the Table 1080

CHURCH DISCIPLINE.—Petition from Little Berkhampstead, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table 1080

COAL MINES (EMPLOYMENT) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Chaloner; Tibshelf; Boosbeck; Upleatham; Lumpsey; Loftus; Carlin How; Guisborough; Liverton; and Lingdale; to lie upon the Table 1080

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).—Petitions for alteration of Law, from Croydon; and Bristol; to lie upon the Table 1080

LOCAL AUTHORITIES OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Birkenhead; and Northfleet; to lie upon the Table 1080

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Rotherham (two); Carlin How; Lumpsey; Loftus; Guisborough; Chaloner; Boosbeck (two); Liverton; Upleatham; Lingdale; Tibshelf; and Carhouse (two); to lie upon the Table 1081

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Bootle (twenty-nine); Aintree (two); Walton on the Hill (four); Battersea; Litherland; Battersea Rise; Bedfordshire; Horsham; Islington; Mexborough; Nottingham; Ramsgate (two); Bristol (twenty-three);

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Faygate ; Manchester ; Gravesend ; Bow ; Easton ; Edinburgh ; Fauldhouse ; Hull ; Cemmaes (two) ; Sheffield ; Alexandria ; Crawley ; Wolverhampton ; Wigan (six) ; Horfield ; Brunswicke ; Cardross ; Little Stonegate ; London (two) ; Worcester ; West Bristol ; and Aberdeen ; to lie upon the Table 1081

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Pulteneytown ; Loch Leven ; Lochore ; Uphall ; Armadale ; Dundee ; Garioch ; Glasgow ; Weem ; Law ; Anstruther Wester ; and Dumbarton ; to lie upon the Table 1081

SOUTH AFRICA.—Petition of John Xavier Merriman and Jacobus Wilhelmus Sauer, for leave to be heard on the question of future policy ; to lie upon the Table. 1081

SOVEREIGN'S OATH ON ACCESSION BILL.—Petition from Peden's Stone, against ; to lie upon the Table 1081

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

AMERICAN MAIL SERVICE.—Return [presented 23rd March] ; to be printed. [No. 98.] 1081

EXPLOSIONS (FELT HAT WORKS, DENTON, NEAR MANCHESTER).—Copy presented, of Report by Captain J. H. Thomson, R.A., His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Explosives, and H. S. Richmond, Esq., His Majesty's Superintending Inspector of Factories, to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on the circumstances and probable causes of the Explosion which occurred at the Felt Hat Works of Messrs. Joseph Wilson and Sons, Denton, near Manchester, on the 14th January, 1901 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table 1081

UNITED STATES (No. 1, 1901).—Copy presented, of Correspondence respecting the Convention signed at Washington, 5th February, 1900, relative to the Establishment of a Communication by Ship Canal between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table 1082

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, No. 2565 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table 1082

ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACTS, 1882 and 1888.—Copy presented, of Special Report by the Board of Trade under Section 1 of the Electric Lighting Act, 1888 [St. Marylebone Electric Lighting (No. 2) Order, 1901] [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table 1082

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Copy presented, of Revised Regulations of the 21st March, 1901, as to Certificates of Age, Proficiency, and School Attendance [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table 1082

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COMMONS.—Mr. Crombie, Mr. Freeman Thomas, Mr. Jeffreys, Mr. Heywood Johnstone, Mr. William Jones, Mr. A. K. Loyd, and Mr. Montagu were nominated Members of the Select Committee on Commons, with five Members to be added by the Committee of Selection.—(*Sir William Walrond.*) 1125

NEW BILL.

DEMISE OF THE CROWN :—

The Attorney-General (*Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs*) 1126

DEMISE OF THE CROWN.—Bill to amend the Law relating to the holding of offices in the case of the demise of the Crown, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Attorney General, Mr. Balfour, and Mr. Solicitor-General.

Demise of the Crown Bill.—"To amend the Law relating to the holding of offices in the case of the demise of the Crown," presented accordingly, and read the first time ; to be read a second time upon Thursday, and to be printed. [Bill 118].. 1128

SUPPLY [23RD MARCH]—SECOND ALLOTTED DAY.—Resolutions reported :—

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1901–2.

A. "That 118,625 men and boys be employed for the Sea and Coast Guard Services for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902, including 19,805 Royal Marines."

1. "That a sum, not exceeding £5,760,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expenses of Wages, etc., to Officers, Seamen, and Boys, Coast Guard, and Royal Marines, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

CIVIL SERVICES EXCESSES, 1899–1900.

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £24 2s., be granted to His Majesty to make good Excesses on certain Grants for Civil Services and Revenue Departments, for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, namely:—

	£	s.	d.
Class I.			
Peterhead Harbour	2	2	0
Rates on Government Property	10	0	0
Class VI.			
Hospitals and Charities, Ireland	2	0	0
REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.			
Post Office	10	0	0
Total	£24	2	0"

Resolutions read a second time.

First Resolution :—

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Discussion :—

Mr. Lough (Islington, W.) 1129
Mr. Edmund Robertson (Dundee) 1131
Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.) 1131
The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) .. 1132
Mr. H. J. Wilson (Yorkshire, W.R., Holmfirth) 1132
Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.) 1133
Mr. Kearley (Devonport) 1133
The First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 1134
Mr. Herbert Lewis (Flint Boroughs) 1134
Sir William Harcourt (Monmouthshire, W.) 1134
Mr. Bartley (Islington, N.) 1136
Sir Fortescue Flannery (Yorkshire, Shipley) 1136
Sir John Colomb (Great Yarmouth) 1138

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 303 ; Noes, 52. (Division List No. 96.)

Second Resolution :—

Motion made, and question proposed—

"That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Mr. Kearley 1143
Sir John Colomb 1144
Mr. Flynn 1144
Mr. Arnold-Forster 1145
Mr. Joyce (Limerick) 1146
Mr. Archdale (Fermanagh, N.) 1147

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Mr. Power (*Waterford, E.*) 1147
Commander Young (*Berkshire, Wokingham*) 1148
Mr. Weir (*Ross and Cromarty*) 1149
Mr. O'Doherty (*Donegal, N.*) 1149
Mr. Flavin (*Kerry, N.*) 1150
Mr. Nannetti (*Dublin, College Green*) 1152

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 318; Noes, 56. (Division List No. 97.)

Ordered, That the Resolution which, upon the 21st day of this instant March, was reported from the Committee of Supply, and which was then agreed to by the House, be now read.

"That a number of Land Forces, not exceeding 450,000, all ranks, be maintained for the Service of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland at Home and Abroad, excluding His Majesty's Indian Possessions, during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

Ordered, That leave be given to bring in a Bill to provide, during Twelve Months, for the Discipline and Regulation of the Army; and that Mr. Secretary Brodrick, Mr. Arnold-Forster, and Lord Stanley do prepare and bring it in.

Third Resolution agreed to

Army (Annual) Bill.—"To provide, during Twelve Months, for the Discipline and Regulation of the Army," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, and to be printed. [Bill 119.] .. ..

SUPPLY [19TH MARCH].—Resolution reported:—

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS REVISED SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1900–1901.

"That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £893,316, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the following Civil Services and Revenue Departments, namely:—

CIVIL SERVICES.

Class V.

	£
Vote 3. Colonial Services	212,300
Vote 2. British Protectorates in Uganda, etc.	200,000

Class VII.

Vote 1. Temporary Commissions	9,000

Class II.

Vote 23. Stationery and Printing	110,000
Vote 27. Secretary for Scotland, Office of	100

Class III.

Vote 2. Miscellaneous Legal Expenses	400

Class IV.

Vote 5. Wallace Collection	3,333
Vote 8. London University	70

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	Class V.	
Vote 1.	Diplomatic and Consular Services	15,800
Vote 6.	Treasury Chest Fund	66,108
	Class VI.	
Vote 1.	Superannuation and Retired Allowances ..	10,000
Vote 5.	Savings Banks and Friendly Societies Deficiencies	51,758
	Class VII.	
Vote 2.	Miscellaneous Expenses	4,600
Vote 6.	Local Loans Fund	4,337
Vote 7.	Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York (Visit to the Colonies)	20,000
Vote 8.	Funeral of Her late Majesty	35,500
	Revenue Departments.	
Vote 2.	Inland Revenue	20,000
Vote 3.	Post Office	130,000
Vote 4.	Post Office Packet Service	10
	Total Civil Services and Revenue Departments	£893,316"

Resolution read a second time.

Sir William Harcourt 1157
Mr. A. J. Balfour 1166
Mr. John Ellis 1162

Amendment proposed—

" To leave out '£893,316,' and insert '£893,216,' instead thereof." —(*Mr. John Ellis.*)

Question proposed, " That '£893,316' stand part of the Resolution."

The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) 1164
Sir William Harcourt 1167
Mr. Cohen (Islington, E.) 1107
Mr. Caine (Cornwall, Camborne) 1171
Mr. T. P. O'Connor (Liverpool, Scotland).. 1172
Mr. A. J. Balfour 1176
Mr. Asquith (Fifeshire, E.) 1177
Mr. Lambton (Durham, S.E.) 1178
Mr. Broadhurst (Leicester) 1179

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present.

House counted, and forty Members being found present—

Mr. Lambert (Devonshire, South Molton) 1180
Mr. Dillon 1182
Mr. George Whiteley (Yorkshire W.R., Pudsey) 1187
Mr. Lloyd George (Carnarvon Boroughs) 1189
Mr. Cawley (Lancashire, Prestwich) 1192

Mr. A. J. Balfour rose in his place, and claimed to move, " That the Question be now put."

Question put, " That the Question be now put."

The House divided :—Ayes, 193 ; Noes, 118. (Division List No. 98.)

Question put accordingly, "That '£893,316' stand part of the Resolution."

The House divided :—Ayes, 196; Noes, 121. (Division List No. 99.)

Motion made, and Question proposed.—

"That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Sir Albert Rollit (Islington, S.) .. 1199
Sir William Harcourt .. 1200
Mr. Bartley .. 1200
Mr. Cohen .. 1201
Mr. Lough .. 1201
Sir Edgar Vincent (Exeter) .. 1201
Mr. Platt Higgins (Salford, N.) .. 1202
Mr. Herbert Lewis .. 1202
Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil) .. 1204
The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir M. Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.) .. 1206
Mr. William Redmond .. 1209
Mr. Courtenay Warner (Staffordshire, Lichfield) .. 1211
The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) .. 1211
Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick) .. 1214
Mr. Nannetti .. 1215
Mr. Flavin .. 1215
Mr. O'Doherty .. 1218
Mr. Gilhooly (Cork County, W.) .. 1219

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 241; Noes, 53. (Division List No. 100.)

SUPPLY [28TH FEBRUARY] REPORT.—Remaining Resolutions [12th March] further considered :—

CIVIL SERVICES SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1900–1901.

Class I.

3. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £2,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for expenditure in respect of Diplomatic and Consular Buildings."

4. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £7,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Expenses of the Post Office, and Post Office Telegraph Buildings in Great Britain, including Furniture, Fuel, and Sundry Miscellaneous services."

Third Resolution :—

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's) .. 1223

Question put, and agreed to.

Fourth Resolution :—

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Mr. Flavin 1223
Mr. Akers Douglas 1223
Mr. Flynn 1224
Mr. Power 1224
Mr. Nannetti 1224
Mr. Cullinan (*Tipperary, S.*).. 1224

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 182 ; Noes, 49. (Division List No. 101.)

SUPPLY [1st March] REPORT.—Remaining Resolutions [14th March] further considered.

Civil Service Supplementary Estimates, 1900–1901.

Class II.

4. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £6,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs."

5. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £7,200, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies."

6. "That a sum, not exceeding £1,015, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of the Lord Privy Seal."

Fourth Resolution :—

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Mr. William Redmond 1227
The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (*Viscount Cranborne, Rochester*) 1228
Mr. Flynn 1228
Mr. Flavin 1228
Mr. Field 1228

Question put and agreed to.

Fifth Resolution :—

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Mr. William Redmond 1229
Mr. Flynn 1230
Mr. Field 1230
Mr. Flavin 1230
Mr. J. Chamberlain 1230

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 173 ; Noes, 44. (Division List No. 102.)

Sixth Resolution :—

Motion made, and Question proposed—

"That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Mr. T. P. O'Connor 1232
Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett (Sheffield, Ecclesall) 1233
Mr. A. J. Balfour 1234
Mr. William Redmond 1235
Mr. Flynn 1236
Mr. Nannetti 1237
Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.) 1238
Mr. Doogan (Tyrone, E.) 1239
Mr. Field 1239
Mr. Flavin 1240
Mr. O'Doherty 1240

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 148 ; Noes, 52. (Division List No. 103.)

SUPPLY [5TH MARCH].—Resolution reported :—

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1901–2 (VOTE ON ACCOUNT) :—

"That a sum, not exceeding £17,304,000, be granted to His Majesty on account, for or towards defraying the Charges for the following Civil Services and Revenue Departments for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902, namely :—

CIVIL SERVICES.

	£
Class IV.	
Board of Education	4,100,000
Class II.	
Board of Trade	60,000
Class I.	
Royal Palaces and Marlborough House	20,000
Royal Parks and Pleasure Gardens	40,000
Houses of Parliament Buildings	16,000
Gladstone Monument	1,000
Miscellaneous Legal Buildings, Great Britain	18,000
Art and Science Buildings, Great Britain	12,000
Diplomatic and Consular Buildings	12,000
Revenue Buildings	140,000
Public Buildings, Great Britain	145,000
Surveys of the United Kingdom	80,000

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Harbours under the Board of Trade 2,000
Peterhead Harbour 6,000
Rates on Government Property 250,000
Public Works and Buildings, Ireland 70,000
Railways, Ireland 70,000

Class II.

United Kingdom and England :—

House of Lords, Offices 3,000
House of Commons, Offices 12,000
Treasury and Subordinate Departments 39,000
Home Office 50,000
Foreign Office 30,000
Colonial Office 23,000
Privy Council Office, etc. 5,000
Privy Seal Office 1,000
Mercantile Marine Services 30,000
Bankruptcy Department of the Board of Trade 3
Board of Agriculture 75,000
Charity Commission 15,000
Civil Service Commission 18,000
Exchequer and Audit Department 24,000
Friendly Societies Registry 2,200
Local Government Board 85,000
Lunacy Commission 5,000
Mint (including Coinage) 10
National Debt Office 6,000
Public Record Office 11,000
Public Works Loan Commission 5
Registrar General's Office 130,000
Stationery and Printing 280,000
Woods, Forests, etc., Office of 8,000
Works and Public Buildings, Office of 23,000
Secret Service 40,000

Scotland :—

Secretary for Scotland 25,500
Fishery Board 8,000
Lunacy Commission 2,500
Registrar General's Office 28,000
Local Government Board 5,000

Ireland :—

Lord Lieutenant's Household 2,000
Chief Secretary and Subordinate Departments 16,000
Department of Agriculture 70,000
Charitable Donations and Bequests Office 1,000
Local Government Board 26,000
Public Record Office 2,000
Public Works Office 16,000
Registrar General's Office 20,000
Valuation and Boundary Survey 6,000

Class III.

United Kingdom and England :—

Law Charges 40,000
Miscellaneous Legal Expenses 27,000

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Supreme Court of Judicature	140,000
Land Registry	14,000
County Courts	14,000
Police, England and Wales	22,000
Prisons, England and the Colonies	260,000
Reformatory and Industrial Schools, Great Britain	140,000
Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum	18,000
Scotland :—	
Law Charges and Courts of Law	30,000
Register House, Edinburgh	15,000
Crofters Commission	2,000
Prisons, Scotland	30,000
Ireland :—	
Law Charges and Criminal Prosecutions	35,000
Supreme Court of Judicature, and other Legal Departments	45,000
Land Commission	50,000
County Court Officers, etc.	46,000
Dublin Metropolitan Police	40,000
Royal Irish Constabulary	600,000
Prisons, Ireland	45,000
Reformatory and Industrial Schools	55,500
Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum	3,500
Class IV.	
United Kingdom and England :—	
British Museum	80,000
National Gallery	9,000
National Portrait Gallery	3,000
Wallace Collection	4,000
Scientific Investigation, etc., United Kingdom	25,000
Universities and Colleges, Great Britain, and Intermediate Education, Wales	41,000
Scotland :—	
Public Education	650,000
National Gallery	1,400
Ireland :—	
Public Education	600,000
Endowed Schools Commissioners	400
National Gallery	1,400
Queen's Colleges	2,500
Class V.	
Diplomatic and Consular Services	225,000
Uganda, Central and East Africa Protectorates and Uganda Railway	320,000
Colonial Services	230,000
Cyprus, Grant-in-Aid	15,000
Subsidies to Telegraph Companies	50,000
Class VI.	
Superannuation and Retired Allowances	280,000
Merchant Seamen's Fund Pensions, etc.	3,000
Miscellaneous Charitable and other Allowances	1,000
Hospitals and Charities, Ireland	17,000

Class VII.

Temporary Commission	10,082
Miscellaneous Expenses	8,000
Total for Civil Services	£10,434,000

Revenue Departments.

Customs	350,000
Inland Revenue	830,000
Post Office	3,800,000
Post Office Packet Service	210,000
Post Office Telegraphs	1,680,000
Total for Revenue Departments	£6,870,000
Grand Total	£17,304,000

Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett 1244
Major Jameson (Clare, W.) 1245
Mr. Boyle (Donegal, W.) 1245
Mr. Clancy (Dublin County, N.) 1246
Mr Lundon (Limerick, E.) 1253
Mr. Reddy (King's County, Birr) 1253
Mr. Field 1254
The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) 1256
Mr. Doogan 1259

Mr. A. J. Balfour rose in his place and claimed to move that the Question be now put.

Question put, " That the Question be now put."

The House divided :—Ayes, 130 ; Noes, 51. (Division List No. 104.)

Question put accordingly, " That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

The House divided :—Ayes, 140 ; Noes, 42. (Division List No. 105.)

WAYS AND MEANS [23rd March].—Resolutions reported :—

1. " That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for the Service of the years ending on the 31st day of March, 1900 and 1901, the sum of £5,229,355 2s. be granted out ot the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom."

2. " That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for the Service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902, the sum of £44,721,500 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.

Resolutions agreed to ; Bill ordered to be brought in by the Chairman of Ways and Means, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Austen Chamberlain.

Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill.—" To apply certain sums out of the Consolidated Fund to the Service of the years ending on the 31st day of March, one thousand nine hundred, one thousand nine hundred and one, and one thousand nine hundred and two," presented accordingly and read the first time ; to be read a second time this day.

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China—Anglo-Russian Dispute at Tientsin.—On the motion for adjournment. Question, Mr. Keir Hardie; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour .. 1264

Adjourned at a quarter before Five of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: TUESDAY, 26th MARCH, 1901.

Lord Henley.—Ordered and Directed, by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled, That a Certificate be sent by the Clerk of the Parliaments to the Clerk of the Crown in Ireland, stating that the Lord Chancellor of the United Kingdom has reported to the House of Lords that the right of the Lord Henley to vote at the elections of representative Peers for Ireland has been established to the satisfaction of him the said Lord Chancellor; and that the House of Lords has ordered such Report to be sent to the said Clerk of the Crown in Ireland; and it is hereby also Ordered, That the said Report of the said Lord Chancellor be sent to the Clerk of the Crown in Ireland 1265

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Sheffield District Railway Bill [h.l.]; Oakham Water Bill [h.l.].—Reported with Amendments 1265

Manchester (Market Street Area) Improvements Bill [h.l.].—Committed; the Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 1265

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Mines and Quarries.—Reports of His Majesty's Inspectors for 1900 1265

Board of Agriculture.—Annual Reports of Proceedings under the Diseases of Animals Acts, the Markets and Fairs (Weighing of Cattle) Acts, etc., for the year 1900. Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table .. 1265

Land Transfer Act, 1897.—Order in Council, dated the 9th of March, 1901, further postponing the operation of the Order in Council of 18th July, 1898, under the Act as regards the City of London, until the 1st January, 1902 1265

Spring Assizes Act, 1879.—Orders in Council, dated 9th of March, 1901, relating to—I. Spring Assize County, No. 2; II. Spring Assize County, No. 3 1266

General Medical Council (Receipts and Expenditure).—Returns of Receipts and Expenditure of the General Medical Council, and of the Branch Councils; also of receipts and expenditure of the Dental Registration Fund, for the year ended 31st December, 1900 1266

Inebriate Acts, 1879 to 1899 (Rules for Retreats).—Rules for Retreats licensed under the Inebriates Acts, 1879 to 1899, made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department. (In substitution for Rules presented the 6th December, 1900.) Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 1266

PETITIONS.

Intoxicating Liquors.—Petitions against the sale of, on Sundays; of meetings at Reigate; Redhill; Holt; Huntingdon; and Esher; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 1266

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LICENSING SESSIONS BILL [H.L.]; Habitual Drunkards Bill [H.L.].—Petition in favour of; of Members of Manchester, Salford, and District Temperance Union; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 1266

LICENSING LAW AMENDMENT BILL [H.L.].—A Bill to amend the law with respect to the grant of licences for the sale of intoxicating liquors, and to provide for the reduction of licences and for the registration of clubs. Was presented by the Lord Windsor; read 1*a*; and to be printed. (No. 28) .. 1266

VOLUNTEERS AND RIFLE RANGES.

Discussion :—

Earl Spencer 1267
The Marquess of Granby 1272
The Under Secretary of State for War (Lord Raglan) 1273
Lord Tweedmouth 1278
Lord Belhaven and Stenton 1282
The Earl of Northbrook 1283
The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (The Marquess of Lansdowne) 1286

House adjourned at half-past Six of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: TUESDAY, 26TH MARCH, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz. :—Great Central Railway Bill. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time 1290

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDERS 62 AND 66 COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Orders Nos. 62 and 66 have been complied with, viz. :—Kingscourt, Keady, and Armagh Railway Bill. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time 1290

Glasgow and South Western Railway Bill; Hull, Barnsley, and West Riding Junction Railway and Dock Bill; London County Council (Tramways and Street Widenings) Bill; North Eastern Railways Bill; Notting Hill Electric Lighting Bill; Cambrian Railways Bill (By Order.)—Read a second time, and committed 1290

London Water (Purchase) Bill (BY ORDER.)—Order for Second Reading read 1290

Mr. John Burns (Battersea) 1291

Motion made, and Question proposed—
"That the Bill be now read a second time."

Sir F. Dixon-Hartland (Middlesex, Uxbridge) 1303

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Sir Frederick Dixon-Hartland.*)

Question proposed—

"That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

Discussion :—

Mr. Whitmore (*Chelsea*) 1308
Sir William Harcourt (*Monmouthshire, W.*) 1311
The President of the Local Government Board (*Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.*) 1313
Mr. Asquith (*Fifeshire, E.*) 1322
Mr. Harry Samuel (*Tower Hamlets, Limehouse*) 1330
Dr. Macnamara (*Camberwell, N.*) 1331
Mr. Peel (*Manchester, S.*) 1333
Sir James Kitson (*Yorkshire, W.R., Colne Valley*) 1335
Mr. Gray (*West Ham, N.*) 1336
Mr. Holland (*Yorkshire, W.R., Rotherham*) 1336
Mr. Lough (*Islington, W.*) 1337

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 176 ; Noes, 253. (Division List No. 106.)

Words added :—
Main Question, as amended, put, and agreed to.

Second Reading put off for six months.

Metropolitan Water Companies (Amendment of Acts) Bill (BY ORDER).—Read a second time, and committed.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (NO. 2).—Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Abertillery, Aspull, Briton Ferry, Cannock, Ebbw Vale, Faversham, Llandaff and Dinas Powis, Llangollen, Neath (Borough), and Tredegar, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Gerald Balfour and Mr. Austen Chamberlain.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill.—"To confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Abertillery, Aspull, Briton Ferry, Cannock, Ebbw Vale, Faversham, Llandaff and Dinas Powis, Llangollen, Neath (Borough), and Tredegar," presented, and read the first time ; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 120.] 1341

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (NO. 3).—Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Birstall, Cheshunt, Dorchester, Felling, Frome, Lichfield, Mitcham, New Hunstanton, Northfleet, and Skipton, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Gerald Balfour and Mr. Austen Chamberlain.

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Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill.—"To confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Birstall, Cheshunt, Dorchester, Felling, Frome, Lichfield, Mitcham, New Hunstanton, Northfleet, and Skipton," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 121.] 1343

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (NO. 4).—Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Atherton, Benwell and Fenham, Beverley, Burgess Hill, Chesham, East Cowes, Hindley, Honley, Standish-with-Langtree, and Stratford-upon-Avon," ordered to be brought in by Mr. Gerald Balfour and Mr. Austen Chamberlain.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill.—"To confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Atherton, Benwell and Fenham, Beverley, Burgess Hill, Chesham, East Cowes, Hindley, Honley, Standish-with-Langtree, and Stratford-upon-Avon," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 122.] 1343

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—London Underground Railways.—That they have appointed a Committee of Five Lords to join with a Committee of this House to consider and report:—

1. Whether the lines of route for underground railways in and near London, proposed by Bills which have been or may be introduced during the present Session, are best calculated to afford facilities for present and probable future traffic; and, if not, what modifications of those lines of route are desirable;
2. What special provision, if any, should be made for the protection of the owners, lessees, and occupiers of properties adjacent to underground railways from possible damage and annoyance;
3. What special terms and conditions, if any, as to construction and working should be imposed upon the promoters;
4. Whether any, and which, of the schemes proposed by the said Bills should not be proceeded with during the present session;

and request this House to appoint an equal number of its Members to be joined with the said Lords.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to enable Henry Diaper and Company, of Liverpool, to issue transferable certificates and warrants for the delivery of goods; and for other purposes." Henry Diaper and Company (Delivery Warrants) Bill [Lords] 1344

Henry Diaper and Company (Delivery Warrants) Bill [LORDS].—Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 1344

Bristol Corporation (Docks and Railways, etc.) Bill [LORDS].—Copy ordered, "of the Report of the Board of Trade on the Bristol Corporation (Docks and Railways, etc.) Bill [Lords]."—(*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) 1344

Glasgow and South Western Railway Bill.—Copy ordered, "of the Report of the Board of Trade on the Glasgow and South Western Railway Bill."—(*Mr. Gerald Balfour*) 1344

North Eastern Railway Bill.—Copy ordered, "of the Report of the Board of Trade on the North Eastern Railway Bill."—(*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) 1345

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Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill.—Copy ordered, "of Memorandum stating the nature of the proposals contained in the Provisional Orders included in the Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill."—(*Mr. Gerald Balfour*) 1345

STANDING ORDERS.—Resolutions reported from the Committee :—

1. "That, in the case of the Kingscourt, Keady, and Armagh Railway Bill, Petition of the 'Meath County Council' for dispensing with Standing Order 129 in the case of their Petition against the Bill, the said Standing Order ought to be dispensed with."
2. "That, in the case of the Biggleswade Water Board, Petition for leave to deposit a Petition for Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with :—That the parties be permitted to deposit their Petition for a Bill."
3. "That, in the case of the Watford and District Tramways Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with :—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, provided that Tramway No. 7, and so much of Tramways Nos. 1, 10, and 11 as are within the district of the Watford Rural District Council be struck out of the Bill :—That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."
4. "That, in the case of the Wales and Laughton Railway, Petition for leave to deposit a Petition for Bill, the Standing Orders ought not to be dispensed with."
5. "That, in the case of the Shannon Water and Electric Power Bill, Petition of 'Robert John Quaile and Augusta Anderson, for dispensing with Standing Order 129 in the case of their Petition against the Bill, the said standing Order ought not to be dispensed with ".. 1345

First Three Resolutions agreed to.

Report to lie upon the Table.

London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway Bill.—Reported, with Amendments ; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1346

Hartlepools Gas and Water Transfer Bill.—Reported [Preamble not proved] ; Report to lie upon the Table 1346

PETITIONS.

AGRICULTURAL RATES ACT, 1896.—Petition from Fife, against re-enactment ; to lie upon the Table 1346

BEER BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Ingleby Greenhow ; Darlington ; Cowbridge ; Ramsholt ; Neyland ; Milford ; Acton ; Haverfordwest ; Tenby ; Saundersfoot ; Fishguard ; Penally ; Blymhill ; Brigg ; Sudbury ; Milborne St. Andrews ; Dullingham ; and Narberth ; to lie upon the Table .. 1346

CHURCH DISCIPLINE.—Petition from Frodsham, for alteration of Law ; to lie upon the Table 1346

COAL MINES (EMPLOYMENT) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Leven ; Denby ; Greasborough ; Markham Colliery ; Primrose Main ; Barnsley Main ; Hickleton ; Kilburn ; Redding ; B. Winning ; Cliff ; Moresby ; Harrington ; Ford's Colliery ; Skelton Park ; Kilton ; Lazenby ; and Eston ; to lie upon the Table 1346

COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGE TO CROPS BILL.—Petition from Fife, in favour ; to lie upon the Table 1346

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ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).—Petitions for alteration of Law, from Mexborough; Horwich; and Tynemouth; to lie upon the Table 1346

LOCAL AUTHORITIES OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION BILL.—Petition from Peterborough, against; to lie upon the Table 1346

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Leven; Denby; Markham Colliery; Greasborough; B. Winning; Kilton; Cliff; Barnsley; Primrose Main; Hickleton; Kilburn; Redding; Eston; Lazenby; Skelton Park; Harrington; Moresby; and Ford's Colliery; to lie upon the Table 1347

OFFICERS OF THE INDIAN STAFF CORPS.—Petitions for redress of grievances, from Alexander Lee; A. Skeen; H. L. Richardson; M. E. L. Bruce; and Colin Finch; to lie upon the Table 1347

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.—Petition from Aberystwyth, for extension to women; to lie upon the Table 1347

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Holt; and Melton Constable; to lie upon the Table.. 1347

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.—Petitions in favour, from West Thorney; Amlwch; Penyfarnedd; Holyhead; Llangefni; Llanfairpwllgwyagyll; Beaumaris; Bodedern; Menai Bridge; Llandegfan; Linlithgowshire; Hull (two); Aspull; Sneinton; Shipley; Kidderminster, Lancaster; Christchurch; Boscombe; Liverpool; Arundel; Saffron Walden; Fenton (two); Blackburn (two); Brynamman; Gwynfe; Llangadock; Blackheath; Penygroes; Felmfoel; Hunslet; Shipley; Wigan; Porthleven; Goxhill; Prestwich; Berwick-upon-Tweed; Brysley; Barnoldby; Ashby; Stallingborough; Bristol; Old Bolingbroke; Heanor (two); Langley Mill; Riddings; Codnor (four); Penryn; Pendleton; Retford; Sandown; Long Eaton; Marlpool; Ancoats; London; Chester; Newport Pagnell; Doncaster; Scunthorpe; Macclesfield; South Ferriby; and Wolverton; to lie upon the Table 1347

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Finstown; Kirknewton (two); Whitburn; Edinburgh; Leith (two); Nesting (two); Paisley; St. Monance; Bathgate; Fauldhouse; Cullen (two); Barrhead; Newtonmore; Grangemouth; Laurence Kirk; Dundunold; Melrose; and Berwick-upon-Tweed; to lie upon the Table 1347

SOVEREIGN'S OATH ON ACCESSION BILL.—Petition from Leven, against; to lie upon the Table 1348

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.—Copy presented, of Annual Reports of Proceedings under the Diseases of Animals Acts, etc., the Markets and Fairs (Weighing of Cattle) Acts, for the year 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1348

MINES AND QUARRIES.—Copy presented, of Reports of His Majesty's Inspectors of Mines for the year 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1348

MEDICAL COUNCILS.—Accounts presented, for 1900 of the General Medical Council and Branch Councils, and of the Dental Registration Fund [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1348

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INEBRIATES ACTS, 1879 TO 1899 (RULES FOR RETREATS).—Copy presented, of Rules for Retreats licensed under the Inebriates Acts, 1879 to 1899, dated 28th February, 1901, approved by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in substitution for the Rules dated 18th October, 1900 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 99.] .. 1348

LAND TRANSFER ACT, 1897.—Copy presented, of Order in Council of 9th March, 1901, further postponing the operation of the Land Transfer Order in Council of 18th July, 1898, as regards the City of London, until the 1st January, 1902 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1348

SPRING ASSIZES ACT, 1879.—Copies presented, of Two Orders in Council of 9th March, 1901, relating to Spring Assize Counties, Nos. 2 and 3 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1349

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.—Return ordered, "giving populations of the cities of Belfast, Londonderry, Cock, Waterford, and Limerick; number of permanent police force in each city; number of free constables allowed to each city; number of constables paid for by each city; amount paid by each of said cities during past year for extra police at exceptional periods during the year; amount paid by each of said cities for the ordinary police force last year."—(*Mr. O'Doherty.*) 1349

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—THE LINDLEY SURRENDER.—Questions, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) and Mr. Lambert (Devonshire, South Molton); Answers, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 1349

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF ANNEXED REPUBLICS — BEEWAARPLAATZEN—Question, Mr. M'Dermott (Kilkenny, N.); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) 1349

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GENERAL BOTHA.—Question, Mr. Black (Banffshire); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1349

CAPE FIELD ARTILLERY VOLUNTEERS. — Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton) 1350

ALLEGED BRITISH ARMY ENLISTMENT IN SILESIA.—Question, Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien (Cork); Answer, Lord Stanley 1351

IMPERIAL YEOMANRY TRAINING.—Question, Captain Bagot (Westmorland, Kendal); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1351

YEOMANRY ESTABLISHMENT. — Question, Captain Bagot; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1351

RESERVE OF OFFICERS.—Question, Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.); Answer, Lord Stanley 1352

REGIMENTAL ACCOUNT-KEEPING. — Question, Mr. Tompkinson (Cheshire, Crewe); Answer, Lord Stanley 1352

ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY, WOOLWICH—ST. PATRICK'S DAY.—Question, Captain Donelan (Cork, E.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1353

SALISBURY PLAIN—POLICE ARRANGEMENTS.—Question, Mr. Fuller (Wiltshire, Westbury); Answer, Lord Stanley 1353

INFANTRY SOLDIERS' KITS.—Question, Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil); Answer, Lord Stanley 1354

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MARK IV. BULLETS.—Question, Mr. John O'Donnell (Mayo, S.); Answer, Lord Stanley 1354

ARMY STAFF REORGANISATION.—Question, Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield, Central); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1354

ARMY REORGANISATION—THE RESERVE.—Question, Sir Howard Vincent; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1354

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY IN THE NAVY.—Question, Sir John Leng (Dundee); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) 1355

NAVY AND NAVAL RESERVE—STATISTICS OF NATIONALITY.—Question, Mr. Black; Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1356

ADMIRALTY CONTRACTS—PENALTIES FOR DELAYS.—Question, Mr. Herbert Lewis (Flint Boroughs); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1356

WEST AFRICAN GOLD MINING COMPANIES.—Question, Mr. M'Dermott; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain... 1356

ASHANTI—MILITARY OPERATIONS.—Question, Mr. M'Dermott; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 1357

CHINA—RUSSO-CHINESE AGREEMENT.—Questions, Mr. Harwood (Bolton), Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett (Sheffield, Ecclesall), and Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.); Answers, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Viscount Cranborne, Rochester) 1357

ALLEGED LOOTING AT PEKIN.—Question, Mr. Pirie; Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Lord G. Hamilton, Middlesex, Ealing)... 1358

CUTTING SUBMARINE CABLES IN WAR TIME.—Question, Sir John Colomb (Great Yarmouth); Answer, Viscount Cranborne 1358

INDIAN MINTS—SILVER COINAGE.—Question, Mr. Grenfell (Buckinghamshire, Wycombe); Answer, Lord G. Hamilton 1359

ARMY AND NAVY WORKS EXPENDITURE.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke; Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir M. Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.) 1359

OFFICERS ON ACTIVE SERVICE AND INCOME TAX.—Question, Major Rasch (Essex, Chelmsford); Answer, Sir M. Hicks Beach 1360

OVERCROWDED RAILWAY CARRIAGES.—Question, Mr. Gray (West Ham, N.); Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central) 1360

LIGHT RAILWAYS IN THE HIGHLANDS.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour... 1361

DUNKELD RAILWAY FACILITIES.—Question, Mr. Stroyan (Perthshire, W.); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1361

GAMBLING IN GRAIN OPTIONS.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1362

VENTILATION ON THE METROPOLITAN RAILWAY.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1363

FOREHOE (NORFOLK) GUARDIANS.—Question, Mr. F. W. Wilson (Norfolk, Mid); Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.) 1363

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Leadless Glaze—Government Contracts.—Questions, Mr. Talbot (Oxford University); Answers, Lord Stanley and The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) 1364

School Accommodation in London.—Question, Mr. Talbot; Answer, The Vice-President of the Board of Education (Sir J. Gorst, Cambridge University) 1365

Irish Drift Survey.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Sir J. Gorst 1365

Private Postal Collections—Sheffield Case.— Question, Mr. Keir Hardie; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1366

Small Holdings in Scottish Counties.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, The Lord Advocate (Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire) 1366

Loch Carloway.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. A. Graham Murray ... 1367

Avoch Harbour.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. A. Graham Murray ... 1367

Roads in the Island of Lewis.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. A. Graham Murray 1367

Congestion on the Island of Barra.—Question, Mr. John Dewar (Inverness); Answer, Mr. A. Graham Murray 1368

Crofters Commission Reports.—Question, Mr. John Dewar; Answer, Mr. A. Graham Murray 1368

Donegal Fisheries.—Question, Mr. O'Doherty (Donegal, N.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) 1368

Lough Foyle Salmon Fishery Licences.—Question, Mr. O'Doherty; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1370

Kinnagoe Bay, Moville.—Question, Mr. O'Doherty; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1370

Irish Agricultural Industries.—Question, Mr. O'Doherty; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1371

Bunagee Pier—Question, Mr. O'Doherty; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1372

Contempt of Court—Widow Salmon's Case.—Question, Mr. John O'Donnell; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1373

National Library of Ireland.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1373

Flax Cultivation in Ulster.—Question, Mr. M'Fadden (Donegal, E.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1374

Lifford Bridge.—Question, Mr. M'Fadden; Answer, Mr. Wyndham ... 1375

White Estate, Bantry.—Question, Mr. Gilhooly (Cork County, W.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1376

Irish Board of Works Loan.—Question, Captain Donelan; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1376

Irish Landed Estates Court.—Question, Mr. O'Dowd (Sligo, S.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1376

Royal Irish Constabulary—Summer Uniforms.—Question, Mr. John Hutton (Yorkshire, Richmond); Answer, Mr. Wyndham... 1377

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PORTADOWN DISTURBANCES.—Questions, Mr. Clancy (Dublin County, N.) and Mr. William Johnston (Belfast, S.); Answers, Mr. Wyndham ... 1377

FACTORY PROSECUTION IN DONEGAL.—Question, Mr. M'Fadden; Answer, The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.) 1378

CRIMINAL LUNATICS IN LUNATIC ASYLUMS.—Question, Mr. Gilhooly; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1379

CORK DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM.—Questions, Mr. Gilhooly and Mr. William Redmond; Answers, Mr. Wyndham 1379

SHULL LETTER CARRIER.—Question, Mr. Gilhooly; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1381

EYERIES POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.—Question, Mr. Gilhooly; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1381

NAVAL EXPENDITURE IN IRELAND.—Questions, Mr. Joyce (Limerick) and Mr. William Redmond; Answers, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1381

IRISH PROVISIONS FOR THE NAVY.—Questions, Mr. Joyce, Captain Donelan, and Mr. William Redmond; Answers, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1382

LONDONDERRY SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY—ADMIRALTY CONTRACTS.—Question, Mr. O'Doherty; Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1383

GRAND CANAL, IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1383

THE EASTER RECESS.—Questions, Mr. Samuel Smith (Flintshire), Sir Charles Dilke, and Mr. Herbert Lewis; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1384

AGRICULTURAL LAND RATING ACT.—Question, Mr. Levy (Leicestershire, Loughborough); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1385

BIMETALLISM.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1385

POET LAUREATESHIP.—Question, Mr. Edwards (Radnorshire); Question, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1385

LAND TAX COMMISSIONERS' NAMES BILL.—Question, Mr. Herbert Lewis; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1385

SUPPLY—ARRANGEMENT OF VOTES—PROPOSED COMMITTEE.—Questions, Sir Walter Thorburn (Peebles and Selkirk) and Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1386

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).—Mr. Halsey reported from the Committee of Selection: That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures:—Sir Charles Dalrymple; and had appointed in substitution: Colonel Williams. Report to lie upon the Table ... 1386

NEW BILLS.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES AND RATING.—Bill to amend the Law relating to the Housing of the Working Classes, to establish Fair Rent Courts, and to amend the Law of Rating, ordered to be brought in by Dr. Macnamara, Mr. John Burns, Captain Norton, Dr. Shipman, Mr. George White, Mr. Stuart Samuel, and Mr. Bell.

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Housing of the Working Classes and Rating Bill.—"To amend the Law relating to the Housing of the Working Classes, to establish Fair Rent Courts, and to amend the Law of Rating," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 18th April, and to be printed. [Bill 123.] 1386

ELECTRIC LIGHTING (LONDON).—Bill to provide for the adjustment, in accordance with changes of boundary effected under The London Government Act, 1899, of the areas within which Local Authorities and Companies are authorised to supply electricity, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Gerald Balfour and Mr. Austen Chamberlain.

Electric Lighting (London) Bill.—"To provide for the adjustment, in accordance with changes of boundary effected under The London Government Act, 1899, of the areas within which Local Authorities and Companies are authorised to supply electricity," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, and to be printed. [Bill 124.] 1387

HOME INDUSTRIES.—Bill for the better regulation of Home Industries, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Charles Douglas, Mr. John Burns, Mr. Churchill, Colonel Denny, Mr. Emmott, Mr. Fenwick, Mr. Munro Ferguson, and Mr. J. W. Wilson.

Home Industries Bill.—"For the better regulation of Home Industries," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday, 6th May, and to be printed. [Bill 125.]... 1387

Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill.—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made and Question proposed,—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

ADMINISTRATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTS IN IRELAND.

Sir Thomas Esmonde (*Wexford, N.*) 1388
Mr. Cullinan (*Tipperary, S.*) 1402
Mr. Clancy (*Dublin County, N.*) 1408
Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice (*Wiltshire, Cricklade*) 1413
The Chief Secretary for Ireland (*Mr. Wyndham, Dover*) 1416
Mr. Dillon (*Mayo, E.*) 1424
The First Lord of the Treasury (*Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.*) ... 1432
Mr. John Redmond (*Waterford*) 1433

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 143; Noes, 51. (Division List No. 107.)

Bill read a second time, and committed for to-morrow, at Twelve of the clock.

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.—Lords' Message [1st March] relating to the appointment of a Joint Committee on the Widows and Orphans of Soldiers and Sailors considered.

Ordered, That a Select Committee of Five Members be appointed to join with a Committee to be appointed by the Lords to consider the various Charitable Agencies now in operation, and the funds available for relieving Widows and Orphans of Soldiers and Sailors, with a view to ensuring that the funds subscribed by local and private benevolence are applied to the best advantage in supplementing a scheme of Government pensions for Widows and Orphans of Soldiers and Sailors who have lost their lives in war.

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Ordered, That two Members be added to the Select Committee.

Message to the Lords to acquaint them therewith.

Ordered, That Mr. Bartley, Mr. Hozier, Mr. Hayes Fisher, Mr. Kearley, and Mr. Lambert be nominated Members of the Committee.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, That Three be the quorum.—(*Sir William Walrond.*) 1435

PRESENCE OF THE SOVEREIGN IN PARLIAMENT.—Lords' Message [19th March] considered :—

Ordered, That a Select Committee of Five Members be appointed to join with a Committee to be appointed by the Lords to consider the accommodation available in the House of Lords when the Sovereign is personally present in Parliament, and the advisability of substituting Westminster Hall on such an occasion for the House of Lords (King's Consent signified).

Message to the Lords to acquaint them therewith.

Ordered, That Mr. Akers Douglas, Sir William Hart Dyke, Mr. Herbert Gladstone, Mr. Holland, and Mr. James William Lowther be Members of the said Committee.

Ordered That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, That Three be the quorum.—(*Sir William Walrond.*) 1436

HOUSE OF COMMONS ACCOMMODATION COMMITTEE.—The Select Committee on House of Commons Accommodation was nominated of—Sir John Aird, Mr. Akers Douglas, Sir Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett, Mr. Cochrane, Mr. Jacoby, Colonel Lockwood, Dr. MacDonnell, Mr. Malcolm, Mr. Arthur Morton, Mr. Edward Morton, Mr. Newdigate, Mr. William Redmond, Sir Barrington Simeon, Mr. Soames, and Mr. Frederick Wilson.—(*Sir William Walrond.*) 1436

Adjourned at a quarter before One of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 27TH MARCH, 1901.

TOOK THE OATH.—One other Member took and subscribed the Oath ... 1437

PETITIONS.

BEER BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Wallingford; Saffron Walden; Farington; Bawdsey; Sutton; Hodnot; Great Wratting; Snaith; Leicester; Hampshire (two); Salisbury; Ross; Shifnal; Wilmington; Upton Bishop; Sleaford; Monmouthshire; Lincoln; Uppingham; Staffordshire; Thaxted; Exmouth; Cirencester; Loddon and Clavering; Rutland; Worcestershire; Market Harborough; and Manorbier; to lie upon the Table 1437

BERWICKSHIRE COUNTY TOWN BILL.—Petition from Greenlaw, against; to lie upon the Table 1437

COAL MINES (EMPLOYMENT) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Ireland Pit; West Kiveton; Norton Hill; Foxcote; Blackwell; Braysdown; Farington; Camerton; Kilmersdon; Timsbury; Huish; Writhlington; Springfield; Bishop Sutton; and Old Mills; to lie upon the Table 1437

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ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).—Petition from Darwen for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table 1437

HOSPITALS (EXEMPTION FROM RATES) BILL.—Petition from Dundee, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1437

LOCAL AUTHORITIES OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Worcester; and St. Mellons; to lie upon the Table... 1437

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.—Petition from Linlithgow, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1437

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from West Kiveton; Ireland Pit; Blackheath; Rowley Regis; Whiteheath; Springfield; Writhlington; Camerton; Timsbury; Blackwell; Foxcote; Kilmersdon; Huish; Norton Hill; Braysdowne; Old Mills; and Farington; to lie upon the Table 1438

ROMAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN IRELAND.—Petitions against establishment, from Leven; and Coatbridge; to lie upon the Table... 1438

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Kendal; Leeds (two); Henley-on-Thames (three); Wakefield; Browney; Putney; Darwen (two); Wiltshire; Queen's Park; Wigan; Stokenchurch; Ashford; Fleetwood (two); Bristol; Ramsbottom; Birdwaal; Willesden; Walsall; Bloxwich; Smethwick; Eastbourne; Whiteinch; Southampton; Longridge; Ashton-on-Ribble; Preston; Lytham; Radcliffe; Halifax; Rainhill; Wiston; and Nantwich; to lie upon the Table. 1438

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions in favour, from Millport; Edzell; Partick; Edinburgh; Durness; Govan; and Dumfries; to lie upon the Table. 1438

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LAND TRANSFER ACT, 1897.—Paper [presented 26th March]; to be printed. [No. 100.] 1438

BRISTOL CORPORATION (DOCKS AND RAILWAYS, ETC.) BILL [Lords].—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 26th March; *Mr. Gerald Balfour*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 101.] 1438

GLASGOW AND SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY BILL.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 26th March; *Mr. Gerald Balfour*]; to lie upon the Table and to be printed. [No. 102]. 1438

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY BILL.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 26th March; *Mr. Gerald Balfour*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 103.] 1439

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 1) BILL.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 26th March; *Mr. Gerald Balfour*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 104.] 1439

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS (MANUFACTURE OF EARTHENWARE AND CHINA).—Copy presented, of Amended Special Rules for the Manufacture of Earthenware and China [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1439

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (NAVY VOTES).—Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 22nd March, 1901, authorising the temporary application of surpluses on certain Navy Votes for the year 1900-1901 to meet excesses on the other Navy Votes for the same year [pursuant to Resolution of the House of 4th March, 1879]; to lie upon the Table… … … … 1439

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.—Copy presented, of Amending General Order for the regulation of proceedings under and in pursuance of the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 105.] … … 1439

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP A).—Ordered, that Captain L. W. E. Bowen do attend the Committee on Group A of Private Bills to-morrow, at Twelve of the clock … … … … … … … … … 1439

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP D).- Ordered, That Joseph Clapton Davis do attend the Committee on Group D of Private Bills to-morrow, at Twelve of the clock … … … … … … … … … 1440

QUESTIONS.

There were eight questions on the Paper. The first addressed to the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, was, by request, postponed. The others were addressed to the Chief Secretary for Ireland and the Secretary of State for War, neither of whom was in his place.

Mr. O'Doherty (Donegal, N.) … … … … … … 1440
Mr. James Lowther (Kent, Thanet) … … … … … 1440
Mr. Flavin (Kerry, N.) … … … … … … … 1441

Ruling—
Mr. Speaker.

Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill.—Order for Committee read.

Clause 1:—
Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid)… … … … … … 1441
The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Ausien Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) … … … … … … … 1441

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 2 and 3 agreed to.

Clause 4:—

Mr. Caldwell … … … … … … … … 1441

Bill reported without Amendment; to be read a third time to-morrow.

Beer Bill [SECOND READING.].—Order for Second Reading.

Mr. Purvis (Peterborough) … … … … … … 1441

Motion made, and Question proposed—
"That the Bill be now read a second time."—(*Mr. Purvis*).
Colonel Milward (Warwickshire, Stratford-upon-Avon … … … 1447

Amendment proposed—
"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Colonel Milward.*)

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Question proposed—
"That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

Discussion—
Mr. Heywood Johnstone (*Sussex, Horsham*) 1454
Mr. George Whiteley (*Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey*) 1459
Sir Cuthbert Quilter (*Suffolk, Sudbury*) 1464
Colonel Brookfield (*Sussex, Rye*) 1473
Mr. Armine Wodehouse (*Essex, Saffron Walden*)... 1477
Sir Michael Foster (*London University*) 1479
Sir William Harcourt (*Monmouthshire, W.*) 1482
Mr. Chaplin (*Lincolnshire, Sleaford*) 1488
Mr. Corrie Grant (*Warwickshire, Rugby*) 1495
The Chancellor of the Exchequer (*Sir M. Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.*) ... 1497

Mr. Chaplin rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put"; but Mr. Speaker withheld his assent, and declined then to put that Question.

Colonel Walker (*Widnes*) 1500
Mr. Groves (*Salford, S.*) 1501
Colonel Kenyon-Slaney (*Shropshire, Newport*) 1502
Mr. Rutherford (*Lancashire, Darwen*) 1502

Question put, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

The House divided:—Ayes, 245; Noes, 133. (Division List No. 108.)

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for to-morrow.

Midland Railway Bill; Gravesend Gas Bill.—Reported with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1507

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE.—Third Report brought up, and read; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1507

Adjourned at twenty minutes before Six of the clock.

END OF TABLE OF CONTENTS TO VOLUME XCI.

THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(*AUTHORISED EDITION*)

IN THE

SECOND SESSION OF THE *TWENTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT* OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF *GREAT BRITAIN* AND *IRELAND*, IN THE
FIRST YEAR OF THE REIGN OF

HIS MAJESTY KING EDWARD VII.

THIRD VOLUME OF SESSION.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 15*th March*, 1901.

SAT FIRST.

The Lord Ramsay (*E. Dalhousie*) sat first in Parliament after the death of his father.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRESTATYN WATER BILL [H.L.].

Witnesses ordered to attend the Select Committee.

ELLAND GAS BILL [H.L.].

Committed; the Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

ALBION STEAM COAL COMPANY BILL [H.L.].

FRESHWATER, YARMOUTH, AND NEWPORT RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

Committed.

CHARING CROSS, HAMMERSMITH, AND DISTRICT ELECTRIC RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

KING'S ROAD RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

Read 2^a (according to order).

ASPATRIA, SILLOTH, AND DISTRICT WATER BILL [H.L.].

HANDSWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL [H.L.].

KING'S NORTON AND NORTHFIELD URBAN DISTRICT TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.]

LLANELLY HARBOUR BILL [H.L.].

LLANELLY AND MYNYDD MAWR RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

AIRE AND CALDER NAVIGATION BILL [H.L.].

BOURNEMOUTH CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills, viz.:—

E. Scarbrough,
E. Carlisle,
L. Monteagle of Brandon,
L. Northbourne,
L. Stanmore (chairman);

agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly. The Committee to meet on Wednesday next, at Eleven o'clock; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills.

An Asterisk (*) *at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.*

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.

Report by the Chairman of Committees of the House of Lords and the Chairman of Ways and Means in the House of Commons, That the General Orders not complied with in respect of the following Provisional Orders—

Ayr County Buildings,
Paisley District Tramways—

ought to be dispensed with, and the Orders allowed to proceed.

(Signed) MORLEY.
JAMES W. LOWTHER.

Laid before the House, and ordered to lie on the Table.

PRESENCE OF THE SOVEREIGN IN PARLIAMENT.

Message from the Commons that they have come to the following resolution, to which they desire the concurrence of this House: That it is expedient that a Select Committee be appointed to join with a Committee of the Lords to consider the accommodation available in the House of Lords when the Sovereign is personally present in Parliament, and the advisability of substituting Westminster Hall on such an occasion for the House of Lords.

The said Message to be considered on Monday next.

THE READING CLERK AND CLERK OF OUT-DOOR COMMITTEES.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that by virtue of the power granted to him as Lord Chancellor by the Statute 5th George IV., Chapter 82, Section 4, he had, on the recommendation of the Lord Chief Justice, appointed Edward Hall Alderson, Esquire, to be their Lordships' Reading Clerk and Clerk of Out-door Committees.

Moved, "That this House do approve of the appointment of Edward Hall Alderson, Esquire, as their Lordships' Reading Clerk and Clerk of Out-door Committees."

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: My Lords, I cannot allow the statement which the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack has made to pass without comment. I desire, in the first place, to congratulate the noble Earl on the success of the bulldog tenacity he has shown in this matter. The subject of the third clerk at the Table has been more than once before your Lordships' House. As far back as the year 1889 a Committee of your Lordships recommended, and their recommendation was accepted by the House, that the appointment of the third clerk should revert to the Clerk of the Parliaments, and that he should appoint to the position one of the head clerks of one of the departments in your Lordships' House. For a considerable time the appointment has remained vacant, and the noble and learned Lord now informs us that he has appointed a gentleman on the recommendation of the Lord Chief Justice. The noble Earl, it seems to me, can hardly divest himself of the responsibility of this appointment. The noble Earl has always represented that as the power of appointment was given to him by statute, he felt bound to exercise it himself, and not leave it to the senior Clerk at the Table. We are now told that the noble Earl has made this appointment on the recommendation of the Lord Chief Justice. I do not feel able to challenge the appointment. No doubt the appointment lies with the noble Earl, and he is perfectly entitled to appoint whoever he chooses. But I would like to remind the noble Earl that this subject is one which has been commented upon in both Houses of Parliament, and I think that further comment will be made in the other House in the early future. The place is one which I think might have been admirably filled by one of the senior clerks of this House. It would have been a natural method of promotion and recognition of merit, and so far as I am myself concerned I must enter a protest against the course which has been taken by the noble and learned Lord.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The Earl of MORLEY): I confess that I am extremely glad the noble and learned Lord has thought fit to appoint a third clerk. I have not the least wish to revive this controversy, but I am bound to say that I still adhere to the opinion I have expressed on many occasions, that it would have been wiser to have followed the recommendation of the Committee of 1889.

in this case. The third clerk is much wanted, and so far as Mr. Alderson is concerned I do not think the noble and learned Lord could have made a better appointment. He has been in the House for some years as private secretary to the noble and learned Lord, and will, I think, make an excellent clerk.

THE EARL OF HALSBURY: In reply to the noble Lord, I may state that the responsibility of the appointment is mine. I take it entirely upon myself. When the discussion arose in July last I said that I would take care that the appointment I made should be an appointment suggested by the Lord Chief Justice of England. Since that time there has been a change of person, but I thought it my duty, after what I had said to the House, not to act without the recommendation of the Lord Chief Justice. I have always protested against the waiver of my right of appointment. If it is the desire to alter a system which has been in force for seventy years, it should be done by Act of Parliament. I cannot help expressing the opinion that it is somewhat undesirable, after an appointment has been made within our power and our jurisdiction, to threaten the maker of that appointment with something that may be said or done in the other House of Parliament.

On Question, resolved in the affirmative.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ARMY.

I. Memorandum by Field Marshal Viscount Wolseley, addressed to the Marquess of Salisbury, relative to the working of the Order in Council of the 21st November, 1895.

II. Minutes by the Marquess of Lansdowne and Mr. Brodrick on Lord Wolseley's Memorandum.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (INCORPORATION OF WALLSEND).

Charter of incorporation of the borough of Wallsend, dated 12th March, 1901. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

THE WAR OFFICE—LORD WOLSELEY'S MEMORANDUM TO LORD SALISBURY.

VISCOUNT WOLSELEY: My Lords, I rise to call attention to certain allegations made by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs upon the advice given by me when Commander-in-Chief of the Army with regard to the war in South Africa, and to move for Papers. I regret extremely that I am compelled to trouble your Lordships with some observations on a matter personal to myself. It is with great reluctance that I do so, but I am sure that your Lordships will not be surprised that I do not pass without notice the severe comments made recently by the noble Marquess the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs on the manner in which I performed my duties while Commander-in-Chief. I admit that both of the other members of the Government who spoke in the debate—the Duke of Devonshire and the Marquess of Salisbury—deprecated the notion that there had been any intention to make a personal attack upon me. While, however, thanking them for the kindly feelings which prompted them to make this declaration of their opinion, I think that they can hardly have expected to persuade either me or your Lordships that the words which the noble Marquess uttered so emphatically were used without premeditation and without deliberate purpose.

Upon the occasion in question I tried to lay before the House my strong objections to the Order in Council of 1895, but in doing so was most careful to avoid anything like a personal attack either upon the Government or any member of it. The ex-War Minister argued against my objections, although he admitted that some changes—what he did not specify—might with advantage be made in that Order in Council. But having done so he went out of his way to make a personal attack upon me. My Lords, I will begin by explaining clearly to which statements of the noble Marquess I refer. To the greater part of his speech I take no exception whatever. He holds a different view of the Order in Council of 1895 from that which I hold, and he argued strongly that I had mistaken its purpose and its effect. He was just as much entitled to adopt that line of argument as I was to explain how, in my opinion, the position of Commander-in-Chief has been altered under the Order in Council.

But the noble Marquess proceeded to formulate the following charges against me as an individual. He said (1) that, although I did occasionally initiate proposals having reference to all the different departments of the War Office, I did so fitfully and only when the spirit moved me; (2) that if I had paid more attention to the duties assigned to me by the Order in Council I might have enabled him to turn to better account the large number of auxiliary forces in this country, which he was constrained to say had been not a little neglected during the last five years; (3) that if I had paid more attention to the preparation of schemes of offensive and defensive operations I might perhaps have told him before the South African War that Ladysmith was not a very suitable station for Her Majesty's forces to occupy; (4) that I might even, if I had paid more attention to these questions, have warned him that it would take more than one army corps to subjugate the two South African Republics.

My Lords, I think that you will agree that graver indictments against a Commander-in-Chief than those it would be hardly possible to frame, and that, in ordinary justice to the accused officer, evidence, or the means of obtaining evidence, ought to be tendered to the House when such accusations are made. The noble Marquess, however, adduced no proofs of his statements of any sort or kind; he laid no Papers or other information on the Table. So far as I am aware, this proceeding is entirely without precedent; and the conduct of the noble Marquess appears still more extraordinary when contrasted with his own account of the position and responsibility of the Secretary of State for War. The noble Marquess claims for the Secretary of State for War the ultimate and sole responsibility for all that occurs in the War Department. How has he carried out that view in practice? On the occurrence of the very first difficulty—the war in 1899—he has hastened to inform your Lordships and the country that the person to blame for the occupation of Ladysmith and for the insufficiency of the forces at the outbreak of the war is the Commander-in-Chief. I do not suggest or believe that he purposely intended to shelter himself behind the Commander-in-Chief; but I do ask your Lordships whether that is not a correct description of the effects of his speech of the other night. My Lords, I cannot understand why these charges were made. My views upon South Africa, be they right or wrong, have nothing to do with the question I raised—namely, the suitability of the regulations for the command and administration of the Army, as set forth in the Order in Council of 1895. It would seem almost as if this personal attack was dragged in to divert attention from the question at issue, or for the purpose of throwing upon me the blame for any mistakes the Government may have made in the course of the war.

My Lords, I will now make a few observations upon the individual charges. The first charge, that I did my business fitfully, and only when the spirit moved me, is a general allegation. In order to answer it, it would be necessary that the noble Marquess should lay on the Table my numerous Minutes during the last five years, embodying proposals connected with the different departments of the War Office. Taking my alleged neglect of the Auxiliary forces as an instance of my "fitful and occasional" performance of my duties, I would remind your Lordships first of all of what Lord Northbrook said in the previous debate. He pointed out that the Order in Council of 1895 expressly removed the charge of the Auxiliary forces from what is now called the Department of the Commander-in-Chief, and placed it directly under the Secretary of State for War. The answer, however, upon which I wish to rely is far more simple and direct. If I did not exercise the supervision left to me by the Order in a satisfactory manner, why did not the noble Marquess at some time draw my attention to the Auxiliary forces and indicate any inquiries or policy which seemed to him desirable? We were in daily communication about many other subjects. Whatever my faults may be, I do not think that anyone will say that I object to plain speaking; and if the noble Marquess for five years entertained the opinion that any part of my duties was being neglected, I can only say that I deeply regret that he did not open his mind to me upon the subject Until the recent debate I never had reason to suppose that I did not possess the full confidence of the noble Marquess and of the Cabinet. Indeed, I had strong reason to the contrary. On one occasion, early in 1900—to which it is not necessary to refer in detail—circumstances occurred which in my opinion left me no alternative but to resign my office, and I did so. I wish to acknowledge the kindness of the Cabinet, and especially of the noble Marquess, on that occasion. I only mention it to show that if at that time I did not possess their confidence an opportunity occurred which might legitimately and properly have been used to appoint another Commander-in-Chief in my place.

Reverting again to my alleged failure to supervise the Auxiliary forces, I must demur entirely to the charge. I had been for some time head of the Auxiliary forces. When appointed Commander-in-Chief I considered it only right that there should be representatives of these forces on my personal staff, and after considerable difficulty, owing to a question of their pay, which was eventually fixed at a low rate, I succeeded in having one A.D.C. from the Militia and one from the Volunteers appointed. I have always taken the deepest interest in these two services, and have long struggled to improve them, to supply them with transport, and above all things to provide them with a suitable artillery. I believe it was the question of cost that alone prevented them from being well furnished with all they require. For years past I have struggled to have them supplied with efficient guns, having many times pointed out how useless were those in their possession. In a Minute of 13th November, 1897, addressed to the noble Marquess, I called attention to the fact that for the Militia and Volunteers belonging to the field force, allotted for home defence, we had only—I quote from my Minute—

> "obsolete guns, mostly old muzzle-loaders, which, from want of horses, can only be used as guns of position. Their shell fire and range is contemptible, and it would be cruel, if not a crime, to send these Auxiliary forces into action with the artillery they possess at this moment."

As late as May last, in a Minute to the Secretary of State, I said—

> "The guns in the hands of our Volunteers are of an obsolete pattern, and would be useless if opposed by the field artillery of another nation."

Again, in another Minute to the Secretary of State, I wrote—

> "When I contemplate the possibility of having to use our Volunteer artillery with the absurd guns now in their possession I do not know whether to laugh or to cry."

Again—

> "We have one hundred and seven Volunteer batteries of position, eight of which have no guns at all; the remaining ninety-nine batteries are now armed with obsolete guns, some of them being next to useless."

And again, when referring to the Volunteers, I said, in a Minute to the Secretary of State, that they had—

> "no artillery armed with any guns we could expect men to serve in action against modern artillery."

My Lords, at all events it was not my fault that when I left the War Office, on the 30th of November last, such was still the condition of affairs.

The noble Marquess thinks that if I had paid more attention to schemes of defensive operations I might have warned him before the South African War that Ladysmith was not a very suitable military station for Her Majesty's forces to occupy. My Lords, I did for a long period before the war consider the defence of Natal—and I did point out to him the Biggarsberg position beyond Ladysmith, which it would be desirable to hold in the event of war. As long ago as February, 1896, I find that I recommended that some additional troops should be sent to South Africa, of which some were intended for the defence of Natal, and I pointed out then that this—

> "would always enable us in case of need to take up a strong forward position either near Ladysmith or on Transvaal territory, on what is locally known as the Berg."

Of course, every soldier, and I think all your Lordships, will understand that by the "position near Ladysmith" I did not mean the town of Ladysmith—

which is in a hollow and unfitted to stand a siege. That this is so was clear from the answers which I gave to two questions put me by the noble Marquess in July, 1896. These questions were:—(1) Are you in favour of immediately strengthening the Natal garrison? (2) What force should be sent from England to enable us to hold the position of Ladysmith, and even of Laing's Nek? My answer to the first question was "Yes," and in reply to the second, after mentioning the force necessary for the occupation of the Biggarsberg position, I said, "We shall have a complete brigade of cavalry, etc., all available for the occupation of the Biggarsberg position." These were my words, but I may here observe that the Biggarsberg position is, roughly speaking, twenty-five miles in advance of the town of Ladysmith. That this Ladysmith position means the Biggarsberg position near Ladysmith further appears from the Report of the Intelligence Department of 2nd June, 1899—in paragraph seven of which it is stated that in the early days of the war, if it should come, "the main endeavour of the British general in Natal will be to hold the Biggarsberg position and Van Reenan's Pass." I never did consider that the town of Ladysmith, with the hills immediately surrounding it, was a tenable position, and I never contemplated that it would be held. I did consider and did advise that stores should be collected in the town, which is a junction of two railways, and the most convenient—indeed, the only convenient — depôt of supply for the troops holding the Biggarsberg position.

The noble Marquess says that if I had paid more attention to schemes of offence I might have warned him that it would take more than one army corps to subjugate the two Republics. I freely admit that, in common with all persons and authorities who have expressed an opinion on this question, I did under-estimate the fighting power of the individual Boer. My error was occasioned not by inattention to schemes of offence, but by the fact that the obstinacy which has been displayed by the Boers in making and in continuing resistance is not in accordance with all previous experience of them. I advised the noble Marquess on the 8th June, 1899, that, "in the event of war with the Transvaal, we should require, in addition to the force in South Africa," which I may tell you, my Lords, was then about 10,000 fighting men, "one complete army corps, one cavalry division, one battalion mounted infantry, and four battalions for lines of communication." In a subsequent Minute on this subject in September I wrote—

> "I would strongly urge that as we have the troops for the army corps, cavalry division, etc., to our hands ready for immediate mobilisation, we should mobilise them and send them out."

This, my Lords, was three weeks before Mr. Kruger's declaration of war. Every recommendation must be considered with reference to the time at which it is made, and this is specially the case in military matters. A comparatively small number of troops employed early will often achieve a result which five times their number will not produce some months later—just as in the case of a fire a little water at the beginning will stop a conflagration which half the fire engines in London will be unable to grapple with when it has been burning for some hours. My Lords, I claim that in judging as to whether my advice was good or bad it is essential to know whether it was accepted in its entirety. I think that the noble Marquess, when saying that I had advised that one army corps would be sufficient, ought also to have informed your Lordships that in my Minute of the 8th June, 1899, I advised that the army corps and the other troops which I asked for should be at once mobilised on Salisbury Plain. I thought then, and I think now, that the mobilisation of such a force at that time would have produced a considerable effect in South Africa. In any case we should have had a considerable force ready for embarkation at any moment. If we were comparatively unprepared and at a disadvantage at the outbreak of the war, the noble Marquess knows well that it was not because I had not on many occasions urged the purchase and forwarding of stores, and the gradual, unostentatious reinforcement of our forces in South Africa.

I have now said all that I desire to say at present with reference to the allegations of the noble Marquess. I have said as little as I possibly can consistently with any justice to myself. The noble Marquess has made strong personal statements which are unsupported. I have now made my reply, which is unsupported also. I cannot, however, agree to leave the matter there. I feel that I am amply justified, under the circumstances, in moving, as I do now move, that all the Papers be laid upon the Table. I am prepared to prove by official documents all that I have said. I move for "all Papers bearing upon the allegations made by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs against Viscount Wolseley as Commander-in-Chief, and upon the statements made by Viscount Wolseley in reply." So far as I am personally concerned, I should be glad to include all Papers relating to all the advice which I have given to the Secretary of State while I was Commander-in-Chief. If I do not do so it is only because I should be travelling beyond the limits of the noble Marquess's allegations. I am glad to learn from a Paper issued this morning that the present Secretary of State for War is in favour of replacing under the Commander-in-Chief the Adjutant General's Department, and making other important changes in the Order in Council of 1895.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of LANSDOWNE): My Lords, the noble and gallant Viscount has complained of me, not for the first time, on account of an attack which he represents as having been entirely unprovoked and uncalled for by anything he has said or done. I cannot help thinking that the noble and gallant Viscount has scarcely looked in the face the purport of the speech which he delivered the other evening, when he represents that speech as one of an entirely impersonal character, and as involving no attack on myself. For the space of an hour and an half the noble and gallant Viscount occupied himself in describing to your Lordships as a kind of grotesque abortion the Order in Council of 1895, which had been accepted by Parliament on my recommendation as Secretary of State for War. No denunciation could have been stronger than the denunciation of the noble and gallant Viscount. He belongs to a profession in which those who give hard knocks expect to receive them in return, and it really passes my comprehension how he can have anticipated that, after he had been engaged to the extent of about three columns of *The Times* newspaper in breaking my windows, I should be denied all opportunity of retaliating upon his conservatory.

My Lords, not only is this the case, but I venture to submit that the defence with which I met the attack on the Order in Council of 1895 was a strictly relevant reply. The whole of my case was this. The noble and gallant Viscount told us that the Order in Council was an absurdity and fraught with danger to the interests of this country. The gist of my case was that the noble and gallant Viscount had not taken sufficient pains to interpret the Order in Council as it was intended to be construed and interpreted by those who were concerned in framing it; and if I had made that statement without a single illustration of my meaning your Lordships would have had a right to complain of me for leaving my statements entirely unconfirmed. As the noble Viscount has told your Lordships, I gave three illustrations of my meaning. The notice which the noble and gallant Viscount has put on the Paper is strictly limited to two of those illustrations, for he calls your Lordships' attention to my allegations as to the advice given by him as Commander-in-Chief of the Army in regard to the war in South Africa. He has extended his speech considerably beyond those limits, but I will, in the first place, notice the two points which are covered by his notice, and say a few words in regard to them.

Now, in the first place, there is the case of Ladysmith. My Lords, what I said in regard to the case of Ladysmith was this—that if the noble Viscount had realised more than he actually did the immense opportunities offered to him by the duties assigned to him by the Order in Council, he would have been able to point out to us that Ladysmith was not a suitable station for occupation by Her Majesty's forces, and, of course, the noble Viscount must have understood my meaning. I did not mean that it was an unsuitable situation for a cantonment in time of peace, but that it was unsuitable for military purposes as a basis for operations or as a place of arms in time of war. I listened attentively to his speech, and I did not understand him to question the correctness of this statement. He told us frankly that Ladysmith was not the position which he would have selected, and he reminded me—I have no doubt with absolute accuracy—of a conversation which must have taken place five or six years ago, in which he pointed out to me on the map a position that was admirable for defensive purposes—a well-known position on the Biggarsberg. I have no doubt his account of that conversation is correct, but I have no recollection that when the prospect of a war between this country and the South African Republic became imminent that the then Commander-in-Chief came to us and said, "Ladysmith is a dangerous place for you to hold. You must occupy a position on the Biggarsberg. You must fortify it. You must make it into a place of arms for the garrison in Natal." On the contrary, we went on, with the full knowledge of the noble Viscount, accumulating an enormous amount of stores of all sorts in Ladysmith. Now, with regard to Ladysmith, there is no dispute——

*VISCOUNT WOLSELEY: I am sorry to contradict the noble Marquess. I never sent them there at all. I sent them to South Africa, and they were accumulated there by the General Officer Commanding on the spot.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: Surely, the Order in Council of 1895 did not prevent the noble Viscount from watching the proceedings of the generals in the field and ascertaining where it was that they were accumulating these enormous supplies of stores. The Ladysmith position has always been described to me as a very dangerous one to hold. It is commanded on all sides by heights which, as we know, were turned to account by the enemy with very unpleasant results. It is a position with an enormous perimeter, and one which consequently requires a very large force indeed to hold it; it is vulnerable through the great passes which lead across the Drakensberg from Natal into the Orange Free State. The fact remains that it was at Ladysmith that we sat down with our troops and stores, and it was at Ladysmith that Sir George White became entangled. The noble Viscount has reminded me of a remote conversation between us. I will remind him of a more recent conversation between himself and me. The noble Viscount will recollect that when things began to go badly, as they did after the unfortunate reverse sustained by General Penn Symons at Glencoe, the noble Viscount actually suggested to us, and, I believe, suggested more or less informally to the generals on the spot, that we should fall back behind the line of the Tugela to a position which could be more easily held against the enemy.

VISCOUNT WOLSELEY: I never recommended them to fall back on Ladysmith. Behind the Tugela is a different thing.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: The noble Viscount does not quite understand me. What I said was that, after we had sustained those reverses, the noble Viscount suggested that there might even then be time to fall back from the bad position at Ladysmith to a better position behind the Tugela.

VISCOUNT WOLSELEY: I never referred to any position at Ladysmith.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: That was a belated inspiration of the noble Viscount. When I referred to the subject the other night what I intended to convey was that, if the noble Viscount had considered the matter a little sooner, he might have had that inspiration in time for it to have been of real use to the Government and to have saved us from one of the most untoward incidents in the South African War.

Well, my Lords, I pass from that to my statement with regard to the sufficiency of a single army corps. Of course, I meant to include in that the cavalry division and force of artillery which always, I believe, in military parlance accompany an army corps. If my description was inaccurate, I express my regret for it, and I freely admit that the one army corps was always intended to have with it the cavalry division, and I believe a few troops for the lines of communication. Since the noble Viscount has put his notice on the Paper, I have been through such papers as I can find and I have been unable to find any trace of a suggestion from the noble Viscount, or any one else, that one army corps with its accessories would not be amply sufficient for the purpose of carrying these operations to a successful issue. My noble friend behind me (Lord Dunraven) spoke on the previous occasion of the opinion of Sir William Butler, and suggested that he had asked for 100,000 men. I interrupted my noble friend and said that there was no trace of any such recommendation. I was strictly accurate. We endeavoured at one time to find out what Sir William Butler did recommend and the only thing we were able to find was, I believe, an unofficial letter to the noble and gallant Viscount suggesting that possibly 40,000 men might be necessary for the campaign. But my contradiction of the noble Lord was, of course, strictly limited to this one point, and was not intended to suggest that Sir William Butler had or had not made any suggestions of other kinds in regard to South African affairs. The noble Viscount certainly did not get beyond the limit of one army corps, and that is abundantly clear to me because I find that as lately as 3rd October, 1899—a week or more after the Orange Free State had announced that they would throw in their lot with the Transvaal—I wrote a Memorandum for my colleagues in the Cabinet, for the compilation of which I was largely indebted to the noble Viscount, in which I explained somewhat apologetically why it was that so large a force as the 50,000 or 60,000 men for which I was asking was necessary to meet the requirements of the campaign.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: What is the date of that?

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: October 3. I will not labour the point, because the noble and gallant Viscount admitted with a frankness which I must say I respect and admire—as, indeed, he has done on other occasions—that he had greatly under-estimated the fighting power and the resources of the Boers. That is a mistake of which I am afraid we have all been guilty, and I certainly do not desire to excuse myself altogether from blame in the matter; but I do say that if blame is attributable to any of us for that miscalculation, the noble and gallant Viscount, who by the Order in Council was our principal military adviser, and who was charged with the duty of preparing schemes of offence and defence, must be content to bear his full share of that responsibility. That, indeed, was the point of the observation which I made to the House the other night.

The noble and gallant Viscount then went on to tell your Lordships that if things had not gone as well as they might during the earlier part of the campaign your Lordships should know that he had repeatedly pressed upon Her Majesty's Government certain advice, and that that advice had not always been taken. I readily admit—for I have no wish to be in the slightest degree unfair to the noble and gallant Viscount—that during the summer of 1899 he did on several occasions make proposals to us with a view to the taking of important military measures in preparation for hostilities in South Africa, and I admit that, although we acted upon some of his advice, we certainly did not act upon all of it. In particular we did not accept his recommendation that we should at a date which he mentioned mobilise a large force at Aldershot or on Salisbury Plain. We did not act upon his advice, not because we ventured to set our opinions upon military subjects against his, but because the advice which he gave us upon purely military grounds was advice which, in view of the political circumstances of the moment, we considered it was absolutely impossible for us to follow. I do not know how far your Lordships carry in your minds the anxious events of the summer months of 1899. During those months peace and war hung in the balance. Negotiations were in progress—negotiations which were at one time of an extremely hopeful character. Your Lordships may recollect that we obtained from the Transvaal Government several important concessions with regard to the franchise. We hoped that in those concessions might be found the basis of a satisfactory settlement; and desiring, as we most earnestly did, that peace should not be broken, we determined that we would take at that time no steps which were of a distinctively-provocative character. Our policy was to avoid provocation and to endeavour to bring about peace. But, my Lords, that was not the policy of the noble and gallant Viscount. His policy, if not a policy of provocation, was, at any rate, and I do not think he will question my description of it, a policy of intimidation.

The noble and gallant Viscount spoke just now of gradual and unostentatious measures for strengthening the garrisons of South Africa. We took some measures of that kind; but the great measures which the noble and gallant Viscount asked us to adopt were anything but unostentatious measures. He wished us to mobilise an army corps. He suggested to us that we might occupy Delagoa Bay. He suggested an appeal to the colonies for contingents. He proposed that we should land 11,000 or 12,000 mules in South Africa. I will not express any opinion upon the several merits of these suggestions; but they were not unostentatious, and they certainly were not calculated to prevent a breach of the peace at a time when we hoped and believed that the war might yet be avoided. If I wanted to clinch that argument and to show to your Lordships that I am not doing an injustice to the noble and gallant Viscount, I would remind him that he pressed those measures upon me, as he says, in the month of June, with an expression of his desire that the operations might begin as soon as possible. Why? In order that we might get the war over by the month of November, 1899. My Lords, the idea of forcing the pace in such a manner as to complete the subjugation of the two Republics by the month of November, 1899, was, I frankly confess, one that did not at all commend itself to Her Majesty's Government. But do not let it be supposed that all this time we were sitting with our hands folded. Our great desire was, at any rate, to make the colonies safe during the period of suspense through which we were passing; and with that object we sent out to South Africa, as the noble and gallant Viscount will remember, with his concurrence and on his recommendation, large reinforcements—reinforcements, I think, if I remember aright, of the very number he himself had recommended, and which, in fact, reached South Africa before the war had broken out. The only difference between his proposal and ours was that he wished to send the whole of the troops from this country and we sent a considerable proportion of them from India, from which country they could arrive more quickly in South Africa. It is, indeed, very distinctly in my memory that the noble and gallant Viscount told me at that time that when those reinforcements had reached South Africa he would stake his reputation that very-thing would be safe to the south of the Biggarsberg.

I dwell upon these points, because I want to show that Her Majesty's Government did not contemptuously brush on one side the advice given to us by our recognised military adviser. Our policy was a policy of peace, not of provocation. We earnestly desired to have the country with us. We believed the country was not ready for war in the month of June and July, 1899, and we therefore contented ourselves with taking those measures which we were advised were sufficient to ensure the safety of the colonies in the meanwhile.

The noble and gallant Viscount, travelling, I think, a little beyond the limit of his motion, referred to what I have said with regard to the interest he had taken in the Auxiliary forces. I never intended to suggest that the noble and gallant Viscount had never done anything for the Auxiliary forces. What I said was that I thought he had not realised—I forget the exact words—the importance of their place in our military system. I still believe that. I never could get the noble and gallant Viscount to admit that in this great host of Militia and Volunteers we possessed the really valuable military asset I always conceived it to be. The noble and gallant Viscount was always coming to us for more Regular soldiers, but not for Militia and Volunteers, and I cannot help thinking that if he had devoted his great abilities to making more of the Volunteers and Militia they would have been great gainers by any interest he might have taken in them.

It is strictly true, because, as I said before, I do not wish to do any injustice to the noble and gallant Viscount, that he repeatedly called our attention to the inferiority and obsolete character of the guns of position in the hands of the Volunteers. If we did not at once replace those guns by other guns it was because, as he will recollect, we had a great deal to do in order to make up lee-way with the Regular artillery; and on the advice of the noble and gallant Viscount we did very largely increase the forces of the Regular artillery in this country. But it certainly was not until two years ago that we ordered—I know with the approval of the noble and gallant Viscount—a large number of mobile guns of large calibre to form part of the equipment of the Volunteer forces. The only other measure which the noble and gallant Viscount claimed credit in connection with the Auxiliary forces was that he had appointed aides-de-camp from the Militia and Volunteers—a very good measure so far as it went, but not a measure of what I would call first-rate importance.

The noble and gallant Viscount has moved for the production of papers which he has described in very general terms. So far as I could follow him, that would involve the production of confidential War Office minutes of great numbers and of great length, and of the most secret character. I can scarcely believe that he will press that motion, nor is it necessary that he should do so, for I do not think there is any great difference of opinion between us as to the contents of those documents.

My Lords, I have now examined, so far as I think it necessary, the arguments of the noble and gallant Viscount. I will only say one thing more before I sit down. I have had the honour to represent the War Office in this House for five years, and I think your Lordships will not contradict me when I say that I have not in this House, or indeed out of this House, ever sought to shelter myself behind my military advisers. I have been at the head of a Department more constantly and bitterly assailed than, I think, any department of the State; but I have never yielded to the temptation, if things have gone wrong, whether it has been in regard to the pattern of a soldier's gaiter or the conduct of operations in the field, I have never yielded to the temptation of saying that it was no fault of mine, and that I was acting on the advice of others. And if the other evening I departed from the rule which I had laid down for my own guidance and did appear to impute blame to the noble and gallant Viscount, I entreat your Lordships to believe that I did so not with any hope or thought of shirking responsibility, but because I honestly believed that the arguments which I used were the only arguments by which I could defend a system which I believe to be a sound one and place before the view of the public what I conceive to be the true merits of the question which the noble and gallant Viscount has raised.

*THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: My Lords, I am sure no one can deny that the noble Marquess opposite was perfectly correct in saying that the manner in which he answered questions in this House during the time he was Secretary of State for War was perfectly courteous, and that he took the responsibility upon himself in all matters upon which he was questioned. In that respect he is fully entitled to the credit which he not improperly attributed to himself at the end of his speech. That made it to me the more extraordinary that the noble Marquess should have departed from the course he had prescribed for himself and endeavoured to shelter himself behind the Commander-in-Chief in respect to the advice given with reference to the war in South Africa. If he had not made those unfortunate allusions to the late Commander-in-Chief, we should not to-night have had this discussion, which is painful in the highest degree. The noble Marquess having made personal attacks with reference to the advice given to the Government by the late Commander-in-Chief, the noble and gallant Viscount was compelled, in defence of his honour as a soldier and his reputation, to answer those attacks. He has given categorical answers to the attacks made by the noble

Marquess, and the noble Marquess has replied. He has gone so far as to repeat a conversation which there is no possibility of checking, and has referred to confidential documents which were not mentioned before. I submit that in the absence of the confidential documents, the production of which has been refused, it is impossible for your Lordships to form an opinion on the matter in controversy. This much we may say on the main facts of the case—namely, that the noble and gallant Viscount, the late Commander-in-Chief, made recommendations for preparing troops, collecting stores, and sending reinforcements to Natal and the Cape, and that the Government decided on their responsibility not to comply with them. That we know. The Commander-in-Chief made recommendations; they were not complied with by the Government. Which was right? If the Government had succeeded in maintaining peace, I should have congratulated them on the wisdom of their course. Unfortunately, having neglected preparations, they brought us into a war. That is a matter which the Government will have to answer when inquiry takes place into the conduct and antecedents of the war. This is not the time to discuss that question. It is sufficient for us to know now that the noble Marquess admits that the advice of the Commander-in-Chief was not adopted in respect to the mobilisation of forces, the preparation of stores, and those precautions which were necessary in order to put our Colonies in a state of defence. It is impossible now to make any calculation as to what would have been the effect if the Government had not been so misled by the notion that war was not to take place, and if they had taken the precautions—not intimidations, as was suggested by the noble Marquess—which the Commander-in-Chief recommended. It is possible, though it cannot be proved, that the attack made by the Boers on our Colonies might have failed and that the war might have been concluded in a much shorter time. But, as I said before, this is not the time to discuss that matter. I only point this out in order to show that it is quite possible—and for my own part I think it exceedingly probable—that the late Commander-in-Chief was right in recommending those measures, and that the Government were wrong in neglecting his recommendations.

I must express my utter surprise at the attitude of the noble Marquess the late Secretary of State for War in regard to the production of Papers and Minutes. His answer was one for which I was absolutely unprepared. The noble Marquess having quoted from those documents, in common fairness he is bound to produce them. There may be good reason for not referring to confidential Papers in this House, but, having referred to them, how the noble Marquess can refuse to produce them passes my comprehension, seeing that the officer to whose prejudice they have been used asks for their production. I fully admit that it is exceedingly inconvenient for the public service that Departmental Minutes should be laid on the Table. It is difficult to use the freedom which is desirable in communications of this sort if they are to be laid upon the Table of Parliament. But if a Minister makes use of those Minutes in Parliament to the prejudice of a colleague, in my opinion the minor inconvenience ought to give way. I hope the noble and gallant Viscount has not put his motion on the Paper as a mere handle for a speech, but that he will persevere and ask your Lordships to say whether it is right and fair that the Papers which have been quoted from should not be produced. I do not see that any prejudice to the public service can arise from their production any more than in the case of those reports of the Intelligence Department with respect to South Africa which were quoted *in extenso* in *The Times* the other day, and which I believe have been laid on the Table, although they have not yet been circulated to your Lordships. I do not think that the Papers in question can be more confidential than the correspondence respecting the defence of Natal which has been laid before Parliament.

I greatly regret the course which this discussion has taken. The noble and gallant Viscount brought forward the important question of the organisation of the War Office. It has been diverted into a discussion more or less of a personal character, and I hope that discussion will cease by the production of the Papers referred to. I am glad that the noble Marquess committed the indiscretion of referring to a certain Memorandum which has since been laid upon the Table of the House, for we have now been admitted a little behind the scenes, and we know what the opinions of the noble and gallant Viscount were some time ago, as expressed in the Memorandum written at the request of the Queen, and, I presume, put before the Cabinet. We know also what views were put before the Cabinet by the noble Marquess the late Secretary of State for War and his successor the present Secretary of State for War. That gives us an opportunity of discussing this matter in a business-like manner. I do not think anything could have been clearer or better expressed than the Memorandum of the noble and gallant Viscount. He urged that the Commander-in-Chief should again be responsible for the discipline and the military training and efficiency of the Army, or else that his office should be abolished. He urged that the system of the noble Marquess, to which he appears to be so wedded—namely, a kind of general supervision of somebody who is also himself responsible to the Secretary of State was an impracticable system. He said—

> "The system as laid down is unworkable. In the endeavour to combine general control in one place with individual responsibility in another, it has failed in both objects."

Proof of that is given by the speech of the noble Marquess to-night, who attacked the noble and gallant Viscount in respect to the distribution of stores, which appears to me, according to the Order in Council, to be under the charge of another responsible officer. Then the noble and gallant Viscount asked that the Army Board should have some initiative. It appears that the Army Board, over which the Commander-in-Chief presides, is a body which only assembles when the Secretary of State asks them to assemble, and that they have no power to make the slightest suggestion in matters connected with the Army. The noble and gallant Viscount asked in his Memorandum that this Army Board should have some power of initiative. The noble and gallant Viscount complained that all letters sent from the War Office were written by the Under Secretary of State. The noble Marquess wrote a very long Memorandum in answer to the Memorandum of the noble and gallant Viscount. He argued that this plan of general supervision, coupled with separate responsibility, was a most excellent one; but I think that he himself in his Memorandum showed how wrong that contention is. I am speaking now of the discipline of the Army. The discipline of the Army I take to be a matter which should be under the Commander-in-Chief, but it was placed under another officer. The noble Marquess in his Memorandum said—

> "He has been consulted on all the most important questions of discipline."

That is to say, the officer who should have direction of the discipline of the Army has only been consulted upon the most important points, and that the Secretary of State for War and not the Commander-in-Chief has been responsible for the discipline of the Army through the Adjutant General. The Adjutant General goes to the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of State gives his decision upon matters of discipline. That is the explanation as given by the noble Marquess himself in his Memorandum.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: The noble Lord must know that ordinary minor discipline cases do not go to the Secretary of State.

*THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: I am not aware of the manner in which the details of the War Office are conducted, but I am assuming that the Order in Council is strictly followed, and that the noble Marquess's own explanation, as given in the Memorandum, is correct. Arguing in favour of this theory of general supervision and separate responsibility the noble Marquess said—

> "Whenever my attention has been called to departures from this rule I have always supported the Commander-in Chief, and I have more than once assured him of my readiness to take any action which he might recommend in order to insure respect for it."

What can be a greater condemnation of any system than that the intervention of the Secretary of State should be required in order to settle whether such and such a matter was part of the responsibility of the Commander-in-Chief or of some other official? I will now draw the attention of your Lordships to the Memorandum written by the present Secretary of State for War, and dated 20th November, 1900. After supporting to a very considerable extent the arguments of the noble Marquess, Mr. Brodrick ends with some very remarkable admissions. I have shown your Lordship that there were five principal points urged by the late Commander-in-Chief in the Memorandum laid before the Cabinet. The first was that the Commander-in-Chief should be responsible for the discipline and the military training and efficiency of the Army Mr. Brodrick in his Memorandum entirely concedes that most important point. Mr Brodrick wrote—

> "The discipline of the Army being necessarily in the final resort under the Commander-in-Chief, and all important cases being in fact submitted to him already, I am disposed to think the Adjutant General should come directly under his control."

Thus the whole contention of the late Commander-in-Chief is conceded by the present Secretary of State for War. As to the Army Board Mr. Brodrick said—

> "Personally I should advocate giving a power of initiative to the Army Board."

Here again the recommendation of the late Commander-in Chief is accepted by the Secretary of State for War. Dealing with "Letter writing," Mr. Brodrick said, "I have never liked the present system," and the right hon Gentleman indicated that the system might be changed. There is another recommendation of the noble and gallant Viscount which has been accepted by the Secretary for War. Mr. Brodrick also said—

> "The illustrations of minute points for which the Secretary of State's authority is required, may well be overhauled."

Thus another point urged by the noble Viscount has been conceded. The whole of this discussion is full of anomalies, and it is somewhat remarkable that although the noble and gallant Viscount was Commander-in-Chief at the time this Minute was written by the Secretary of State, no copy of it was communicated to the noble and gallant Viscount.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: Are you referring to my Minute?

*THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: No, to the Minute of the present Secretary of of State for War. Mr. Brodrick wrote his Minute on 20th November last year. On that date the noble and gallant Viscount was Commander-in-Chief, but no copy of this Minute was communicated to him. That is a most unfortunate fact, because I am authorised by the noble and gallant Viscount to say that if he had seen the Minute written by the present Secretary of State for War he would not have thought it necessary to bring forward his motion the other day. In his opinion, the main matters which he wished to see altered have been promised to be altered by that Minute. I have no more to say on this matter. I have been very much distressed at the disclosures in the administration of the War Office, and I cannot conceive how it is possible, after the disclosures which have resulted from these discussions, for the present system to continue. There seems to be a want of cohesion, of general co-operation, and of bringing the different heads of Departments together, which is perfectly inexplicable. The following remarkable Departmental Minute written by the Commander-in-Chief to the Director General of Ordnance is given in the Memorandum written by the noble Marquis opposite—

> "Is it true that all further progress in the manufacture of the 9·2in. guns has been suspended for more than the last three months on account of changes in the construction lately determined upon?
>
> "I don't want to worry you, but I deeply feel our present condition as regards the armament of our ports and fortresses both at home and abroad.
>
> "(Signed) WOLSELEY.
>
> "4th October, 1900."

Is it possible, in any Department decently organised and under proper management, that such a state of things should have existed? Here is the Commander-in-Chief of the Army with no information respecting the manufacture of guns for our ports and fortresses. There is a want of a regular military council at the War Office. There should be a council of heads of Departments—the Commander-in-Chief, the Adjutant General, the Quartermaster General, the Director General of Ordnance, and the Inspector General of Fortifications, under the presidency of the Secretary of State. The council should meet regularly at certain stated periods, say, once a week, at which there should be a conference upon any matters of importance, and of which there should be a record kept. In this way an end would be put to these innumerable Minutes, and a better arrangement arrived at, and we should not have the heads of the different Departments working at cross purposes. I have no doubt the officers at the War Office have done their best. I am sure the noble and gallant Viscount did his best. I entirely agree with him that the system inaugurated by the noble Marquess is one which it is impossible to work with advantage. I quite sympathise with the noble and gallant Viscount in the difficulties he had to encounter, and I hope he will have the satisfaction of feeling, however painful it may have been for him to answer attacks made upon him by the noble Marquess, that his action in bringing forward the subject has been the cause of the Papers being laid on the Table, and that it is to be hoped that the reforms in the Army administration which he desires will be carried into effect.

LORD NEWTON: My Lords, it is not my intention to occupy the time of your Lordships for more than a minute or two, but it appears to me that there is one point upon which an explanation is required, painful though this debate has been. The noble and gallant Viscount has made two deliberate statements in your lordship's House—statements so carefully prepared that I am under the impression that every word was written out. In addition, we have been able to study the views of the noble Lord on the subject under discussion in the Paper which has to-day been circulated. There is only one construction to be placed on these documents, and it is this—that the noble and gallant Viscount considered that while he was occupying the position of Commander-in-Chief he was in point of fact occupying an intolerable situation. The question therefore must have occurred to many minds why, if such a state of things prevailed, has the House heard of it for the first time only within the last few days? It is true the noble Viscount stated he was anxious to give the system a fair trial, but what length of time is required to decide whether a system of administration is a sound or a vicious one? So far as I am able to gather, it has taken the noble Viscount four or five years to discover that this was a vicious system.

The noble Viscount has expatiated on the advantages of taking the public into confidence. Why did he not take that course earlier? During the five years he was in office he made numerous speeches to all sorts and conditions of men, and the general effect of those speeches hardly bears out the views he enunciated for the first time in the House only a few days ago. I do not think I am exaggerating when I say that those speeches were mostly pitched in an optimistic vein, giving the impression to the public that military administration was going on as well as we had a right to expect. With regard to the points at issue, it may, perhaps, be presumptuous for me to express a confident opinion; but I think I am justified in saying that had the noble Marquess, with his world-wide reputation, at any time in the past four years, made such a statement as he made a few days ago, and if he had proved his case, Parliament and the whole country would have been with him. Why the noble Viscount did not adopt this course he alone can explain. I do not think I am putting the case too strongly when I say that an explanation on this subject is due to the great body of taxpayers in this country.

EARL SPENCER: My Lords, I do not wish to enter at any length into the discussion which has taken place to-night, but I think everyone must have been struck with the clear statement of the noble and gallant Viscount. The admissions of the noble Marquess go to show that the late Commander-in-Chief did make a great many recommendations which His Majesty's Government did not think it right to adopt, and those admissions justify to a great extent what the noble and gallant Viscount has said. What strikes me is this—the late Secretary of War being responsible for Army administration, if he was not satisfied with the advice he received from the Commander-in-Chief, was it not possible to ask the latter to resign? To ask a great officer to resign is a very serious matter, but more serious is it for the head of a great Department of State, a Minister responsible to Parliament, to have at his side an officer upon whom he feels he cannot rely for good advice. From what the noble Marquess has said it is evident he was satisfied he did not receive good advice. With regard to the Volunteers the noble and gallant Viscount was "fitful." At another time he only had a "belated inspiration." Those are the words of the noble Marquess. Why, if this was so—why, if the noble Marquess felt that he had not the advice he had a right to expect, did he not recommend the Commander-in-Chief to resign? In these matters the Secretary of State has responsibility equal to that of the Commander-in-Chief, and his position demands the best military advice. The noble Marquess to-night admitted that he had always considered Ladysmith a bad place to defend. He made other admissions with regard to the number of forces required in South Africa, and we now know that the noble Marquess, His Majesty's Government, and the late Commander-in-Chief greatly under-estimated the fighting powers of the foes we had to meet. In all that has been said by the noble Earl (the Earl of Northbrook) as to withholding from publication confidential Papers from the head of an office, I quite agree. It would be impossible to conduct the business of a Department if such Papers were published. But the noble Marquess has himself brought personal matters forward, and it is a most damaging thing to the official concerned to have brought against him charges which should remain unknown outside the office where the incidents occurred. The whole responsibility is with the late Secretary for War. What is the position of the noble and gallant Viscount? Is he to sit silent and contented, unable to defend himself? Though as a general rule it is not possible to divulge confidential Papers of this kind, yet when the ex-head of a Department makes such statements as the noble Marquess has made it appears to me it is a case for an exception to the general rule to show whether the late Commander-in-Chief has been rightly or wrongly accused. I rose for the purpose of pressing that argument. There is one other matter which I think it is only fair to refer to; and which the noble Marquess passed over, probably by an oversight, in his reply. The noble and gallant Viscount stated that upon one occasion early in 1900 he offered his resignation, which the Government declined to accept. It would seem, therefore, that at that time the Secretary of War had confidence in his adviser. I sincerely hope His Majesty's Government will in this matter do an act of justice by making an exception to the general rule forbidding the publication of confidential Papers.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of SALISBURY): My Lords, I do not propose to add to this debate any observation on the military matters that have been canvassed to-night, for they are of a highly technical character, and I doubt whether I am competent to discuss them with any useful effect. I merely wish to address myself in one word to the motion on the Paper. I understand the rule to be that if a Minister quotes a Paper which is not on the Table of the House, it is open to other Members to move that the Paper be presented, and I do not think a Minister could refuse the request. That is a different motion from that of the noble Viscount, which is that all Papers which some person or persons unknown may imagine to have reference to the debate should be immediately printed for general circulation. I think that would be a very difficult task to perform, and very undesirable when it had been performed. If there was any Paper quoted to-night with which the House is so far unacquainted, it is for the noble Viscount to indicate it, and move for its production. To that motion we should give, according to traditional practice, the most careful consideration. But to the vague motion on the Paper it is impossible that we can consent.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: My Lords, I do not rise any more than the noble Marquess for the purpose of prolonging this debate, which, combined with the discussion of the other night, will always remain in my memory as one of the most painful to which I have ever listened. The noble Duke opposite, and, I think, the noble Marquess, said the other night that they were not aware that any personal charges had been brought against the noble and gallant Viscount. I tremble to think what would be the nature of personal charges if once His Majesty's Government began to make them. It is not a personal attack to accuse your principal subordinate of having been fitful in his attendance to his duties! It is not a personal attack to tell your principal military adviser that he has given you bad military advice! It is not a personal attack to state that at a crisis which we all have good reason to remember your principal military adviser under-estimated the resources necessary for the campaign, and recommended as a place of arms a spot which was wholly unsuited for the purpose! These are not personal charges! Then Heaven preserve me from the Government when they begin to bring them. In my judgment, and, I think, in the judgment of the great mass of the House, and certainly in the judgment of the person whom we are accustomed to appeal to in our discussions, "the man in the street," they constitute personal charges of the gravest nature. For that reason I say this debate will always remain most painfully in my memory.

The noble and gallant Viscount has now closed his active career. It has been an historical career. It is one which has more than once earned him the thanks of Parliament, and constantly the less definitely expressed gratitude of the country. He lays down the high office—a high office in name, at any rate—with which you have invested him, and takes the first opportunity of his freedom from responsibility to bring the subject of the relation of that high office to the office of the Secretary of State for War before the attention of Parliament, having kept a loyal silence while he was under the direction of the Secretary of State. What is his reward? He is met by argument to some extent, no doubt. But, on the other hand, he is met with what I must call, differing as I do from the Government as to the meaning of personal attacks, one of the gravest attacks ever made upon a subordinate. The noble Marquess plumed himself to-night, and, I think, with justice, on never having attributed responsibility to a subordinate before, and on only having done it to-night for the purpose of his argument. But, I should like to ask, has it ever been the practice of Parliament or of statesmen in Parliament, in any circumstances whatever, to shelter themselves behind a subordinate? Has it ever been known in the history of the Legislature that any Secretary of State has ever got up and said, "I was misled by my adviser. The responsibility lies upon him, and not upon me"?

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: The noble Earl continually found fault with me for not bringing down the Commander-in-Chief's own opinion to the House.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: I did not continually find fault with the noble Marquess for not bringing down the Commander-in-Chief. I only noticed his conspicuous absence. As was remarked by the noble Lord who sits behind the Government, he was making speeches elsewhere in the country, and I drew the inference that the best possible military adviser of the Secretary of State was not wholly satisfied with the proposals of the Secretary of State; and in the next place I drew a larger conclusion, which was that in the great national and military crisis such as we were then passing through the country had a right to look beyond the mere opinion of a civilian, however highly placed he might be, for an assurance of our security in the field of war. I return to the argument in which I was disturbed by the interruption of the late Secretary for War. I said it has never been the practice of any responsible Minister, under any circumstances, to shelter himself behind the advice of a subordinate. The Secretary of State has constantly assumed in a very manly way the whole responsibility for what was going on. That is the practice of English statesmen; and I confess I cannot conceive that the noble Marquess is justified in attributing to himself any peculiar propriety in having pursued that course until what I must always consider his unfortunate lapse the other night.

To-night we have had a discussion of three accusations. The honours, I think, have not been equally divided. Perhaps I am not an impartial observer. But I do think that we cannot let the controversy go without bearing in mind one or two points in the defence of the Secretary of State. He says he maintains his accusation that the Commander-in-Chief recommended that Ladysmith was a suitable place for the occupation of English troops. All that is mere allegation, which is that at some period or another the Commander-in-Chief authorised stores to be sent to South Africa which were afterwards sent by the local general commanding there to Ladysmith to be stored. That, as far as I can interpret the somewhat complicated statement of the Secretary of State, is all that he has to bring in reply to substantial proofs alleged by the noble Viscount in support of his contention that he did not consider Ladysmith suitable for the purpose. Then we come to the other part of the case. I leave out the charge relative to the Auxiliary forces, which I think the noble and gallant Viscount treated too fully, because, as it is completely taken away from his late office by the Order in Council, it does not appear to be any part of his responsibility.

But we come to the other charge, which produced an interesting statement from the Secretary of State. He says, and says with some truth, that we were wrong. We all thought that a smaller force would suffice in South Africa than has turned out actually to be the case. The then Commander-in-Chief recommended that a *corps d'armée* should be mobilised in England ready for instant transmission abroad—that certain forces should be sent to South Africa. But he said these would be menacing preparations which would interfere with our policy of peace. The two policies may be compared. The policy of the noble and gallant Viscount, fully informed as he was, and fully informed as the Secretary of State was, through the Intelligence Department, of the preparations of the Boers—though I remember the Prime Minister was not so fortunate, for he had not the information at the disposal of his colleagues in the matter—it was the policy of the noble Viscount, informed as he was by the Intelligence Department of the preparations of the Boers, that if you wished to preserve peace you had better be prepared for war, and that in any case, with the great risk involved and with the promise of the Government to defend Natal, it was better to be prepared. The noble Marquess threw contempt on this advice, and said that the noble and gallant Viscount thought war inevitable, and, if his advice were taken, one or two things might happen—first, either that the Boers might be greatly impressed by your military preparations, or, on the other hand, not being impressed, it might bring matters to a head and the war would speedily be over—by the end of the year 1899. I do not pretend to be a judge of tactics or policy. I am only a humble looker-on. I do not pretend to judge which was the better policy of the two. But, upon my honour, judging by results, I am not prepared unhesitatingly to condemn the noble and gallant Viscount. I am not at all inclined, as the Secretary of State is, to wave away with scorn the advice the noble and gallant Viscount gave in June, 1899. Apparently the policy of the Government was a twofold policy—to labour for peace, but, if peace could not be preserved, to be totally unprepared for war. I suppose I am a dull person, a dull rural person, little versed in these high matters. But, for the life of me, judging the results, seeing that in March, 1901, we are still engaged in a war commenced in October, 1899, I am not prepared to throw stones at the noble and gallant Viscount for what he recommended on that occasion.

The Earl of Rosebery.

Now, coming to the motion before the House, I can conceive nothing more detrimental to the public service than the haphazard production of State documents of importance passing between colleagues, in the utmost confidence, and which should remain for ever in that condition of confidence. But that condition of confidence can only be preserved on one hypothesis, which is, that the confidence is respected by both parties to the compact, and that if one person uses or quotes a document, the policy of Parliament, as the noble Marquess has so truly stated, shall be respected, and these documents shall be placed upon the Table. We have had perpetual citations from documents by the noble

Marquess the Secretary of State. To-night he sprung upon us a new document—a Minute of 3rd October, 1899. Are we to see that document? I will sit down and wait till the Government make up their mind.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: What I ventured to say was that, for the purpose of enabling the Government to take that course which is most consistent with the public interests, the document should be named in a motion, and a motion made that it should be produced. I do not say this for the purpose of refusing the document. My impression is that there is no harm in producing it.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: The noble Marquess went a little further than that. He said you are bound to produce it if you quote from it. The document has been quoted, and its date given, and therefore, I think, he is bound under his own regulations to produce it. I admit the notice of the noble and gallant Viscount is somewhat vague and general, but then, on the other hand, the charges brought against his professional reputation were equally general; and I hold that it is only as a measure of self-defence that he asks for the written minutes of advice that he gave on the points on which he has been charged, and that they should be laid before Parliament. At any rate, as a protest against this new practice of quoting confidential documents which you mean to keep in your bureau, if the noble and gallant Viscount goes to a division I shall assuredly record my vote in his favour.

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Duke of DEVONSHIRE): My Lords, I believe, as the noble Earl stated a few minutes ago, that your Lordships are practically unanimous that it would be highly undesirable in the public interest that a vague and general motion for the production of a number of confidential Papers should be assented to. As my noble friend at the head of the Government said, if it could be shown that reference has been made to any Paper which has not been produced, and which it will not be contrary to the public interest to produce, that Paper ought to be specifically moved for, and if such a motion is made, the Government, if it is in their power, will be perfectly willing to produce it. I am under the impression that no document has been referred to to-night by my noble friend the Secretary for Foreign Affairs except one that has already been referred to by the noble and gallant Viscount. I am not quite clear what that Paper was, but if the noble and gallant Viscount will move for it, the Government will give their best consideration to the motion. We are, therefore, practically agreed on the question of the production of Papers, and there is very little indeed in the observations that have just been made by the noble Earl to which it is necessary to make any reference. It does not seem to me that it is very profitable for this House to discuss much further whether the statement which was made by my noble friend the other night was in the nature of a personal charge against the noble and gallant Viscount.

The noble Earl thinks that personal charges of a very serious character have been made. My noble friend and his colleagues, on the contrary, are of opinion that my noble friend adduced nothing except proofs which were absolutely necessary to show that the allegations which had been made by the noble and gallant Viscount against the present system were not well founded; and that he had, unfortunately, as we think, but decidedly, as we also think, laboured under some misapprehension as to the scope, extent, and importance of the duties with which he was charged by the Order in Council. I deeply regret that in the course of this discussion it should have been necessary to bring forward anything that might be considered to be in the nature of an imputation against the conduct of the noble and gallant Viscount; but, in my opinion, the course which he took left to us no alternative. The noble and gallant Viscount said that the experience of five years tenure of the office of Commander-in-Chief had led him to the conclusion that the office of Commander-in-Chief had been reduced to a cipher; that the Commander-in-Chief was nothing but the fifth wheel of a coach. Such statements, made by an officer enjoying the authority of Commander-in-Chief, were calculated to do irreparable mischief in destroying the confidence of the country in the Army if they could be substantiated, and we were bound to show that, if defects existed, as we do not deny they may, in the system of War Office administration which was introduced by the last Order in Council, they were not the defects which were pointed out by the noble and gallant Viscount, but were defects of quite a different character, of which he seemed to be altogether unaware. It is not our opinion that, under the present system, the Commander-in-Chief has not sufficient authority, if he chooses to make use of it. If there are defects in the system, my noble friend was bound to point out that they consisted in this—that his instructions had not sufficiently indicated to the Commander-in-Chief the nature, and scope, and gravity, and the importance and responsibility of those functions with which he was invested.

The noble Earl opposite referred to the advice given by the noble and gallant Viscount on the occupation of Ladysmith. The noble Earl professed himself to be at a loss to understand in what way the noble and gallant Viscount was responsible, in any degree, for the occupation of Ladysmith. Who does the noble Earl suppose was responsible for the distribution of the troops in South Africa if not the Commander-in-Chief? The noble and gallant Viscount says that all that he was aware of was that certain stores were sent to South Africa, and he did not know where they were sent to. Did he know, or did he not know, to what points the troops sent to South Africa were despatched? If he did not know, who was responsible, if he was not, for the different points to which they were sent?

The noble Earl again referred to the question of the advice which was given on various occasions by the Commander-in-Chief on the subject of the preparations for war. I think there has been some misunderstanding on that question. It has been said, I think, by the noble Earl who spoke previously that the advice which was tendered by the late Commander-in-Chief was not accepted by the Government. That is not an accurate statement of fact. The Commander-in-Chief was, of course, consulted by the Secretary for War as to the measures which it would be necessary to take if war should unhappily come. The Commander-in-Chief most properly and, I have no doubt, most fully and ably complied with that request, and gave the information that was requested of him. But it was not for the Commander-in-Chief, and he never supposed that it was for him, to decide the political question of when those preparations should be made or what the political effects of such preparations might be upon the negotiations that were then proceeding. That was a responsibility which rested on the Government alone. We have never dreamt of making the Commander-in-Chief responsible because we did not think it wise to make certain preparations which were described by the Commander-in-Chief himself as demonstrations. We do not seek to make him responsible for anything that may have occurred in consequence of the delay.

The noble Earl said he had never known a Minister shelter himself under the advice given to him by his subordinate. I think the noble Earl himself, on the last occasion on which he took part in this debate, brought forward a case in which his own Minister for War did bring forward in Parliament the opinion of the Commander-in-Chief in support of his policy with regard to small-arm ammunition, and, as the noble Earl himself pointed out, that was done without any very favourable result. But it cannot be said that throughout this discussion my noble friend has attempted to shelter himself or the Government in any degree, in the course they have taken, behind the advice—sound advice or erroneous advice—which was given to them by their military adviser. Reference has been made to advice which we think was not so sound or complete as it might have been. That has been brought forward, not for the purpose of relieving us of any responsibility whatever, but simply in the discussion on War Office organisation, in order to prove that the defects which the late Commander-in-Chief has alleged to exist in the present system are not those which do exist, and that, on the contrary, if there are defects, they are exactly in the opposite direction to that which has been indicated by the noble and gallant Viscount.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I hope the noble and gallant Viscount will not be content with the offer made to him of the Paper dated 3rd October, 1899. I contend that when a Member of this House, having held high position, has specified charges made against him, he is entitled to have produced all the official documents on which those specified charges are based. The noble Duke said it was necessary for the noble Marquess to attack the noble and gallant Viscount by way of answer to his criticisms of the Order in Council.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I did not use the word attack.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: That it was necessary to bring counter charges.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I did not mention charges.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: Well, that he should point out certain deficiencies in the conduct of the Commander-in-Chief, in order to meet the charges against the system brought by the noble and gallant Viscount. It is a curious commentary on that defence that the present Secretary of State for War should concede the greater part of the points urged by the late Commander-in-Chief, which is in itself a justification, in my opinion, for the criticisms the noble and gallant Viscount has put forward.

VISCOUNT WOLSELEY: My Lords, I regret very much that I cannot comply with the request that I should confine myself to asking for one Paper only. I feel that it is necessary, in the defence of my own character, that I should not do so. There is not one of the noble Lords I am addressing who, if placed in the position in which I have been placed by these serious, and I may say grave, charges brought, as I think, without any rhyme or reason, against me, would not act in the same way. I could point out many inaccuracies that the noble Duke has fallen into, but I do not wish to go into details. As regards the Papers, I hope the Government will grant them. I am quite prepared, if the Government allow it, to name some one who shall go over the Papers and see that only those necessary for the vindication of my points are produced, and that those not touching the points I bring forward are not produced. Certain grave charges have been made against me, and I have endeavoured to the best of my ability to answer them. My answer to the Government is that I am prepared to prove my case, and I only ask for the Papers that will enable me to do so. That is only justice between man and man. I have always been led to believe that when the professional or private character of a Member of your Lordships' House has been impugned, it has been the desire of the House that he should have an opportunity of answering. I therefore appeal to the House to give me the opportunity of proving up to the hilt, as I can do, everything I have said.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: The course we are asked to take is an entirely new one, and, if it is sanctioned by the House, will carry very evil results. The noble and gallant Viscount has been accused—supposing he has been accused at all—of nothing but certain errors of judgment, and he maintains that he has a right to go into a public office and look over the Papers, and have laid on the Table of the House anything he may consider necessary for his purposes.

VISCOUNT WOLSELEY: Only the Papers I have written myself.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: That is a material deduction, but the Government must see the motion in a definite form before expressing their opinion, and I think that another opportunity should be given for a decision on the demand. We cannot consent to the motion as extemporised by the noble Viscount.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: I want to make a practical proposal. The noble Marquess says, "Put the motion on the Paper and we will then see what we think of it." Is it necessary to do that in the present instance? The noble Viscount says, "Will you allow a person deputed by me to look over the Minutes in the War Office, and name those which I think necessary for the maintenance of my character?" The Government on their side can name an expert of their own, and, when the Papers have been prepared, it will be open to the Government to say, "We object to this or that," and the subject will come up again. Is it not eminently desirable to avoid another discussion of this kind? I have a practical proposal to make. We are gentlemen meeting in a gentlemanlike spirit, and I would suggest that the motion should be passed with an honourable understanding between the noble Viscount and the Government that the matter shall be carried out in the way suggested.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: I am bound to apologise for speaking again, but when a new motion is started every five minutes it is very difficult to avoid continuing the discussion. It appears to me that the proposal of the noble Earl is the strangest application of the principle of arbitration I have ever heard of. It is impossible that we should hand over an unlimited power over the confidential Papers of a Department of State. We are the guardians of those Papers, and we have no right to give them up until we have some security that we are bound to do so. I cannot admit that, merely because a person has been appointed by the noble and gallant Viscount, he has the right to take our responsibility on his shoulders and to determine what Papers, it may be the most confidential Papers, shall be given over for publication. It is a proposal for which, I believe, there is no sort of precedent, and it would be departing from the duty we owe to the public if we consented to it. The obvious course is to bring the motion forward at a later date, and in more detail, and then we shall be able to judge in respect of each Paper demanded, whether it ought to be laid upon the Table of the House or not. But to this roving commission to an unknown commissioner, who is to decide on some unspecified principle of arbitration, we cannot assent.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: I must ask the noble and gallant Viscount for the form of the motion I am to put to the House.

VISCOUNT WOLSELEY: My motion is, "That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty for all Papers written by the Viscount Wolseley bearing upon certain allegations made by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and upon the advice given by the said Viscount when Commander-in-Chief of the Army in regard to the War in South Africa."

On Question, their Lordships divided: Contents, 38; Not-Contents, 62. Resolved in the negative.

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Clarendon, E. (*L. Chamberlain.*)
Cranbrook, E.
Doncaster, E. (*D. Buccleuch and Queensberry.*)

Hardwicke, E.
Harewood, E.
Howe, E.
Leven and Melville, E.
Lindsey, E.
Lucan, E.
Mansfield, E.
Morley, E.
Mount Edgcumbe, E.
Northesk, E.
Roberts of Kandahar, E.
Stanhope, E.
Strange, E. (*D. Athole.*)
Tankerville, E.
Vane, E. (*M. Londonderry.*)
Verulam, E.
Waldegrave, E. [*Teller.*]
Westmeath, E.
Wharncliffe, E.

Llandaff, V.

Manchester, L. Bp.
Rochester, L. Bp.

Aldenham, L.
Ashbourne, L.
Avebury, L.
Bateman, L.
Belhaven and Stenton, L.
Blythswood, L.
Colville of Culross, L.
Cottesloe, L.
Dunboyne, L.
Dunmore, L. (*E. Dunmore.*)
Fairlie, L. (*E. Glasgow.*)
Haliburton, L.
Harlech, L.
Hothfield, L.

James, L.
Kelvin, L.
Kintore, L. (*E. Kintore.*)
Lawrence, L. [*Teller.*]
Lindley, L.
Manners of Haddon, L. (*M. Granby.*)
Mounteagle of Brandon, L.
Newton, L.
Raglan, L.
Robertson, L.
Rosmead, L.
Sinclair, L.
Somerton, L. (*E. Normanton.*)
Stanmore, L.
Stratheden and Campbell, L.
Windsor, L.

COUNTY COURTS (IRELAND) BILL. [H.L.].

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF IRELAND (Lord ASHBOURNE): My Lords, this is substantially the same Bill as your Lordships passed last session. Its object is to introduce several small Amendments with regard to the procedure of the Irish County Courts. The Amendments have been largely, if not entirely, framed on what has been found to work very well in England; and I hope your Lordships will give the Bill a Second Reading.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^a."—(*Lord Ashbourne.*)

On Question, agreed to. Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday next.

House adjourned at five minutes past Seven of the clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 15*th March*, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

STANDING ORDERS AMENDMENT.

(BY ORDER.)

Standing Order 134C read.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS (Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, Cumberland, Penrith): Perhaps I may be allowed to shortly explain the object of the Amendment I have to propose in this Standing Order. It has been represented to me that in regard to the laying of trams along main roads, it is possible that the interests of the county council and of the urban district authority may clash, and that it is desirable that the county council, which at present has no *locus standi*, should be given the right to appear against tramway schemes proposed to be laid along main roads for which the county is responsible.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): Will this apply to Ireland also?

*MR. J. W. LOWTHER: Yes.

Standing Order amended, in line 3, by inserting, after the word "affected," the letter (A).

In line 5, by inserting, after the word "county," the words "or (B) by the provisions of any Bill proposing to authorise the construction or reconstruction of any tramway along any main road, or along any other road to the maintenance and repair of which the county council contributes, within the administrative county."

Standing Order 170A read.

*MR. J. W. LOWTHER: This raises a somewhat different point. It applies to cases in which a corporation is going to construct or work tramways outside its own area. The Standing Order lays down certain conditions, one of which is that the Committee should insert in the Bill a clause enabling the local authority to purchase the tramways at the end of twenty-one years. It has been found, especially in the case of electric trams, that twenty-one years is not a sufficient period. Engineers put the life of an electric tram at forty-two years, and we propose to amend the Standing Order accordingly. Of course forty-two years will be an outside limit.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): Will this also apply to Ireland?

*MR. J. W. LOWTHER: Yes, Sir.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) asked if there was any special reason why the period should be extended from twenty-one to forty-two years? It seemed to be a tremendous difference.

*MR. J. W. LOWTHER: I am afraid I have not made myself quite clear. The reason is this. In the year 1870, when the Tramways Act was passed, twenty-one years was taken as the life of a tramway. At that time only horse tramways existed, but at the present time many corporations are laying down electric trams, and the expense connected with the installation of these is so large that it has been found not to be worth while to lay them down unless for an extended period. If they have to sell them at the end of twenty-one years they are losers by the transaction.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): In what sense do you mean the word "corporation"? Is it to be taken in its technical sense, or will it include a private company trading as the tramway company?

*MR. J. W. LOWTHER: It is intended to cover the cases of municipal corporations.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): Then you are making a difference between corporations and private companies.

MR. CAINE (Cornwall, Camborne): Are we to understand that this extension of time would not be granted to a private company?

*MR. J. W. LOWTHER: A private company would get whatever terms the Committee chose to give it. This Amendment relates only to the Standing Order which deals with municipal corporations constructing tramways outside their own areas.

Standing Order amended, in line 17, by leaving out, after the word "substitute," the words "shorter periods for the periods," and inserting the words "a period not exceeding forty-two years for the period of twenty-one years."—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY BILL.

(BY ORDER.)

MR. TULLY said he wished to move the Instruction standing on the Paper in his name in regard to this Bill. The words he wished to have omitted dealt with the proposal of the company to acquire certain common lands in the urban district of Tottenham. Some year ago the Tottenham Urban District Council secured the passing of an Act of Parliament which gave them the right to certain common lands to be used as a recreation ground, but the Great Eastern Railway Company now proposed to take away those rights. This was a very serious matter. This company, like other companies, seemed to wish to deal with the public in a very arbitrary manner. Its Bill was pock-marked with proposals to interfere with public rights over footpaths and common lands. This was the first clause which suggested such an interference, and, unless the hon. Member for Lewisham, who was in charge of the Bill, could give a guarantee that a similar quantity of land in the same neighbourhood would be handed over to the Tottenham Urban District Council to be used as a recreation ground, he should feel bound to press his opposition to a division. The company were acting in an arbitrary and high-handed manner, and, if the proposals contained in the Bill were sanctioned, he submitted that there would be a most unfair interference with public rights.

MR. DOOGAN (Tyrone, E.) seconded.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it be an Instruction to the Committee, when dealing with Clause 10, page 8, line 3, to leave out from 'In,' to 'thereabouts,' in line 15 (inclusive)."—(*Mr. Tully.*)

MR. PENN (Lewisham) said the history of the case might be put in a nutshell. The company required, for the widening of its lines, just over an acre of land, which, as the hon. Member had stated, was common land. The company were at present in negotiation with the Tottenham Urban District Council in regard to the terms on which they should have this land, and they were on the eve of a satisfactory settlement. The Tottenham Urban District Council had very properly lodged a petition against the Bill in order that it might have a *locus standi* when the Bill went before a Committee, where the whole matter could be threshed out. The suggestion that the company should give an equal amount of land was scarcely applicable to this case. *Prima facie*, of course, it was undesirable that the area of recreation grounds in populous localities should be diminished, but this case stood on a very different footing. The ground proposed to be taken was rough common ground, which, in the ordinary sense, could not be termed a recreation ground; and what he understood would be done was to devote the money which the company proposed to pay for this acre of land to improving and laying out the remainder of the common land. This would be a great benefit to the locality, and he trusted the House would realise, from what he had said, that so far from the company desiring to act in a high-handed manner, they were anxious to do their best in the public interest.

MR. CAINE said it was all very well to suggest that the matter could be threshed out upstairs, but he wished to point out that that would involve the Tottenham Urban District Council in considerable expense. This was a matter which could well be settled on the floor of the House. There was no part of London to which working people were flocking in larger numbers. There was also no part of the Metropolis so short of open spaces. Tottenham was almost entirely inhabited by working classes—by unskilled rather than by skilled labourers—and he would remind the House that between 4.45 a.m. and 5.15 a.m. each week-day something like 4,000 of these men travelled from Tottenham into London for their work. It would easily be understood therefore that there was a strong feeling, on this side of the House at any rate, against the action of railway companies in taking away land already allocated for public purposes, and he hoped that the mover of the Instruction would divide upon it unless he got an ample assurance that other land would be given in exchange for it, and that, if possible, the area of this piece of common land should not be reduced.

*MR. J. W. LOWTHER said the point of difference was this, that it was agreed that if the railway company took this land other land would be substituted for it. That was agreed to by both the railway company and the Tottenham District Council.

MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.) said he understood the hon. Gentleman to say that the railway company was to pay money for the land taken to the district council, which money was to be used in improving land at present in their possession.

*MR. J. W. LOWTHER said that the Report of the Board of Agriculture, to which any Committee to which this Bill would be remitted would attribute the greatest importance, very distinctly stated that in their opinion the ordinary rule which required a railway company to substitute other land would not be so beneficial for the district as would be the payment of a sum of money to the district council to be applied by them in the purchase of additional land for recreation purposes or for the improvement or enlargement of existing recreation grounds in the district. As the Tottenham District Council was an elected body, surely they might be trusted to decide as to how best to meet the requirements of their own district. He should have thought they were a much better body for that purpose than the railway company, and it would be advisable to leave to them the decision as to what additional land, if any, they were to purchase, or what improvements were to be made on existing recreation grounds.]

SIR JOHN BRUNNER (Cheshire, Northwich) said that the land at Tottenham was of very small value, and a very small amount of money would be given for it; but when the district council came to buy other land they would have to pay a very large sum. It seemed to him that the purchase of the necessary land ought to be imposed on the railway company and not on the council.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) said there was another point. The House viewed with great suspicion any attempt to take away open spaces by any company, more especially a railway company. The hon. Gentleman the Member for Lewisham spoke of the necessity of taking this land to widen the lines, but Clause 10 showed that the land was required not for that purpose, but for purposes of minor moment. The railway company might take land, therefore, at some other spot, and not necessarily at this particular spot. Unless the hon. Gentleman gave the House some assurance that the same space of land would be given in place of that taken, he would vote for the Instruction.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) said there was in London an association known as the "Commons and Footpaths Preservation Society" to which many hon. Members belonged and subscribed, and which performed a very useful and necessary work in preserving playgrounds and recreation grounds in and around London. The executive of that association had considered this Bill, and had passed a resolution that a clause should be inserted providing that the railway company should secure for the Tottenham District Council a similar area of land in lieu of that proposed to be taken away. He trusted the hon. Member for Lewisham would give an assurance that not only compensation would be paid to the Tottenham District Council for the land taken, but that an area of land equal to that taken would be given for playgrounds for the children.

Mr. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield) said that every airhole stopped up in London was a detriment to the surrounding districts. He had a considerable interest in a district in the neighbourhood of Tottenham, and he hoped the railway company would not be allowed to take this land without substituting a similar area of land for it.

Sir J. BLUNDELL MAPLE (Camberwell, Dulwich) thought the question was not thoroughly understood. The population in this district was increasing enormously, and the railway company were, for the safety of the travelling public, compelled to get land for increasing the size of the lines. The railway company were perfectly prepared to pay to the district council what was right and proper for the land, and the details could be discussed in Committee upstairs. If the time of the House was to be consumed in discussing petty details of private Bills there would be none left for the consideration of national and Imperial affairs.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 110; Noes, 133. (Division List No. 66.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, C. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Austin, Sir John
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bell, Richard
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carvill, Patrick G. Hamilton
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Crombie, John William
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Edwards, Frank
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co)
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt-Hon. Charles Seale-
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Holland, William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Horniman, Frederick John
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Patrick James

Kinloch,SirJohnGeorgeSmyth
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Reginald
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mellor, Rt.Hon. JohnWilliam
Mooney, John J.
Morton,Edw.J.C.(Devonport)
Murnaghan, George
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan,Col.JohnP.(Galway,N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, J. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pirie, Duncan V.
Priestley, Arthur
Reddy, M.
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Roche, John
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer,RtHnC.R(Northants)
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Tennant, Harold John
Thompson,E.C.(Monaghan,N.
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Wason, E. (Clackmannan)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Tully and Mr. Caine.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Aird, Sir John
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anstruther, H. T.
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
BalfourRtHnGeraldW.(Leeds
Balfour,MajK.R (Christch'ch)
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst,Hon.AllenBenjamin
Beach,Rt.Hn.SirM.H. (Bristol
Bignold, Arthur
Boulnois, Edmund
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Carlile, William Walter
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish,V.C.W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt.Hn.J.(Birm.
Chamberlain, J.Austen(Worc.
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John C. Ready
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Doxford,SirWilliam Theodore
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edwd.
Finch, George H.
Fisher, William Hayes
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. V. (St. Albans)
Gordon,MajEvans-(Tr.H'ml'ts
Grant, Corrie
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashf'd.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Heath,James(Staffords.,N.W.
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, JF(Sheffield,Brightside
Horner, Frederick William
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard,CaptJ(Kent,Faversh.
Hozier,Hon.JamesHenryCecil
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W (Salop)
Kimber, Henry
Kitson, Sir James
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawson, John Grant
Lee,Capt.AH,(Hants.Fareh'm
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leighton, Stanley
Long,Col.CharlesW (Evesham
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Bristol,S
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowther,Rt.Hn.W.(Cum.Pen
Lucas,Col.Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth
Macartney,RtHnW.G.Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Iver, Sir Lewis(Edinb'gh,W
Malcolm, Ian
Maxwell,RtHnSirHE(Wigt'n.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
Morgan,J.Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G.(Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray,Col.Wyndham (Bath)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Parker, Gilbert
Peel,Hn.Wm.Robt.Wellesley
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Reid, James (Greenock)
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley,Hn.M.W.(Stalybridge
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. T.
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Rothschild,Hon.LionelWalter
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, Harry S.(Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Jas. Parker (Lanarks.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stevenson, Francis S.
Stroyan, John
Thomas,DavidAlfred(Merthyr
Thomas, J. A. (Glam., Gower
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw.Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond,Rt.Hn.SirWilliamH
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkney
Welby,Lt.-ColACE (Taunton)
Wharton, Rt. Hon.JohnLloyd
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson-Todd,Wm.H.(Yorks.)
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C.B. Stuart-
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Penn and Mr. Banbury.

The following Instructions also appeared on the Paper :—

(MR. FLAVIN.)—That it be an Instruction to the Committee, in Clause 23, line 4, to leave out "twenty or more," and insert "any."

(MR. KEIR HARDIE.)—That it be an

Instruction to the Committee to insert the following Clause :—

"It shall not be lawful for the Company by any rule, bye-law, or order, to in any way restrain, or punish, or dismiss any person in their service from acting or for having acted as an elected member of any public body, or for acting in the interest of any registered trade union, co-operative society, benefit society, or of any lawful organisation in which such person has an interest, during the hours in which such person is not bound by the terms of his contract of engagement with the Company to devote himself to the Company's service."

(Mr. JOYCE.)—That it be an Instruction to the Committee to insert the following Clause :—

"All works and undertakings carried out by the Company under the provisions of this Act shall be subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Fair Wages Resolution of the House of Commons in all respects as if such works and undertakings were a Government contract, and any failure to observe this condition shall subject the Company to a penalty of twenty-five pounds for each day over which the offence lasts, such penalty to be recoverable by the workmen affected or by any registered trades union whom said workmen may authorise to act in their name."

(Mr. J. P. FARRELL.)—That it be an Instruction to the Committee to insert the following Clause :—

"Where the Company propose to erect dwellings outside London under the provisions of this Act they shall issue free of cost a pass to enable tenants of such dwellings to travel to and from the station nearest the new dwellings to that nearest their former residence."

*MR. SPEAKER: The next Instruction standing on the Paper, in the name of the hon. Member for North Kerry, is not in order. It proposes to give a mandatory direction to the Select Committee to set aside the form of clause which is prescribed by the Standing Order with regard to houses of the working classes. That is altogether an abuse of the use of Instructions. The next three Instructions, standing in the names of the hon. Members for Merthyr Tydvil, Limerick, and North Longford, are out of order because they seek to take the occasion of a private Bill and the time of private business to discuss general questions which apply equally to all railways.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.) asked by what means were railway companies to be compelled to give proper housing accommodation.

*MR. SPEAKER: That is not a point of order.

MR. KEIR HARDIE inquired under what circumstances and conditions would it be in order to introduce the question raised by his Instruction.

*MR. SPEAKER: It would be in order in a resolution on a Tuesday. It would be in order on a public Bill dealing with the question, but it is not in order upon a private Bill affecting a particular private company.

MR. KEIR HARDIE said that the Instruction was intended to deal with a particular order issued by the Great Eastern Railway Company, and which, so far as he knew, had never been issued by any other company.

*MR. SPEAKER: That is altogether foreign to the purpose of the present Bill.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, namely:—

Dorking Gas Bill.
Midland Railway Bill.
Torrington and Okehampton Railway Bill.
Tottenham and Hampstead Junction Railway Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 63 COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 63 has been complied with, namely :—

Long Eaton Gas Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).

Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, namely :—

Paisley Gas Provisional Order Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time upon Monday next.

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.

The Chairman of Ways and Means presented Report by the Chairman of Committees of the House of Lords and the Chairman of Ways and Means in the House of Commons—" That the General Orders not complied with in respect of the following Provisional Orders :—

Ayr County Buildings,
Paisley District Tramways,

ought to be dispensed with and the Orders allowed to proceed."

Report to lie upon the Table.

PETITIONS.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).

Petition from Wakefield, for alteration of Law ; to lie upon the Table.

INHABITED HOUSE DUTY AND INCOME TAX.

Petitions for alteration of Law, from City of London ; and Manchester ; to lie upon the Table.

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.

Petition from Cheltenham, for extension to women ; to lie upon the Table.

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1896.

Petition from Ince-in-Makerfield, for alteration of Law ; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Sheffield (twenty) ; Norton ; Widmore (two) ; Tuxford ; Prestonpans ; Clitheroe ; London (eight) ; Newhaven ; Disley ; Stanley ; Cupar ; Kidderminster (two) ; Brecon ; Leith ; Lower Wortley ; Yorkshire ; Petersfield ; Bethania ; Llwynypia ; Holmesdale ; Nottingham ; Glasgow ; Cardiff ; Chorlton-cum-Hardy (four) ; Chertsey ; York ; Stockton-on-Tees (four); Sittingbourne ; Stretford ; Whiteinch ; Aberdeen (four) ; Bromley ; St. Austell ; Manchester ; Camberwell ; Bute ; Bath (two) ; Norwood ; Rotherham ; Chichester ; Wigton ; Manningtree ; Liverpool (five) ; Brechin ; Chryston ; Perth ; Perkins Beach ; Goudhurst ; Leeds ; Congleton ; Cinderford ; Thornaby-on-Tees (two) ; Greenock ; Birmingham (four) ; Stone Broom ; Edinburgh (two) ; Cupar Angus ; Shettleston ; Carlisle (six) ; Rotherham ; Masbrough ; Greasbrough ; Driffield ; Kensington ; Swansea ; and Zetland ; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Denny and Dunipale ; North Berwick ; Dryfesdale ; Kirmahoe ; Gladsmuir ; Lockerbie Ferryden ; Cupar (two) ; Inverness ; Ross-shire ; Duns ; Whithorn ; Dunoon ; Wemyss ; Govan ; Gartley ; Huntly ; Edinburgh ; Blairgowrie and Rattray ; Kirriemuir ; Monifieth ; Aberdeen ; and Dollar ; to lie upon the Table.

SOVEREIGN'S OATH ON ACCESSION BILL.

Petitions against, from Dunfermline ; and Alloa ; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES (ELECTORS, Etc.) (UNITED KINGDOM).

Return presented, relative thereto (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 116, of Session 1900) [Address 15th February : *Sir Charles Dilke*] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 85.]

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS (INCORPORATION OF WALLSEND).

Copy presented, of Charter of Incorporation of the borough of Wallsend, dated 12th March, 1901 [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS (SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1900–1901).

Copy presented, of a revised Estimate of the further sum required to be voted for the service of the year ending 31st March, 1901 [by Command]; referred to the Committee of Supply, and to be printed. [No. 84.]

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

Inquiry into Charities (County of Lancaster).—Further Return relative thereto [ordered 8th August, 1898: *Mr. Grant Lawson*]; to be printed. [No. 86.]

EAST INDIA (PETITIONS OF OFFICERS OF PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT).

Address for "Return showing the number of Petitions which have been received during the past fifteen years, either by the Government of India or by the Secretary of State for India, from the officers of the Public Works Department who entered the Royal Indian Engineering College, Cooper's Hill, during the first five years of its existence, the said Petitions containing, it is believed, representations to the effect that the terms under which they had been engaged had not been adhered to, and that their careers and prospects were thereby ruined or very seriously affected; also of the number and nature and date of the replies to these officers." —(*Mr. Kimber.*)

SOUTH AFRICA (NAVAL BRIGADE).

Address for "Copies of Despatches in regard to the Naval Brigade in South Africa which were published in the *London Gazette* of the 12th instant."—(*Sir James Fergusson.*)

CIVIL LIST.

Leave given to the Select Committee to make a Special Report.

Special Report brought up and read as followeth:—

"The attention of your Committee has been called to the publication in *The Times* newspaper of 14th March of a statement purporting to represent proposals contained in the papers marked Confidential referred to your Committee, and to a Report of their proceedings on 13th March.

"They are unable to ascertain in what manner this can have been divulged.

"They recommend that Mr. Speaker, to whom the authority of the House in such matters is delegated, do take such steps, either by the exclusion of the representative of *The Times* from the inner lobbies of the House, or otherwise, as may seem to him best calculated to prevent such publication in future."

Special Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 87.]

*MR. SPEAKER: The House will not expect me to say more at present than that I shall at the earliest moment take into consideration the recommendations of the Committee, with a view to doing what I think best for attaining the object they have in view.

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—RELIEF TO SUFFERERS AFTER THE WAR.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES (Carmarthen Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he can inform the House whether there will be an organisation in South Africa with its machinery in such order that, upon peace being declared, it will be in a position to promptly give help to needy loyalists who have suffered owing to the war, and to needy Boers; and, if so, whether such help will be a charge to the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies; and whether he can state the basis upon which such help will be given.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): The organisation of a suitable machinery is under consideration, but I am not in a position to make any further statement at present beyond saying that it is intended that the assistance should be a charge upon the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies.

PAARDEBERG—GENERAL COLVILE'S REPORT.

MR. ALLEN (Gloucestershire, Stroud): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is willing to publish the report sent by General Colvile to the Commander-in-Chief on the battle of Paardeberg, as he did the corresponding report of General Kelly-Kenny.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): No report was received by Lord Roberts from General Colvile, who held only a divisional command at Paardeberg. By the King's Regulations reports describing the action taken by their respective commands are furnished to the senior officer present by officers commanding divisions or brigades, and by such other officers as he may specially call upon; these reports do not accompany the despatch, the senior officer being alone responsible for rendering to the Secretary of State for War an account of the operations. Under these circumstances this report cannot be laid.

MR. ALLEN: Do I understand that no such report was sent to the Commander-in Chief?

MR. BRODRICK: No, Sir; certainly no report was sent to the Commander-in-Chief. A report was sent to General Kelly-Kenny. It was not forwarded to the Commander-in-Chief.

GENERAL COLVILE'S RECALL.

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether Lord Roberts's despatch of the 19th July, 1900, was before Lord Lansdowne when he reinstated General Colvile in the command at Gibraltar; also if he can state why Lord Roberts's despatch was not issued before instead of after the debate on General Colvile's case; and whether he will lay upon the Table of the House the finding of the Court of Inquiry into the Lindley disaster, which was the reason given for the recall of General Colvile.

*MR. BRODRICK: Lord Roberts s despatch was received at the War Office before Lord Wolseley recommended the reinstatement of General Colvile at Gibraltar. It is not customary to lay Reports upon individual officers on the Table of the House unless they are quoted or specially moved for, and in this case I should not have thought it fair to General Colvile to depart from the rule in order to justify my action. I quoted from the Paper on Monday last and laid it at once. There is no objection to laying the finding of the Court of Inquiry which investigated the circumstances of the surrender at Lindley.

MR. LAMBERT: When will it be laid on the Table?

*MR. BRODRICK: In a day or two.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL (Oldham): On what ground, if this finding is laid on the Table, are the findings of other Courts not to be laid on the Table?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That is a matter of argument.

LADYSMITH CORRESPONDENCE.

MR. YERBURGH (Chester): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will lay upon the Table of the House all the communications, whether by correspondence, messenger, or heliogram, that passed between Sir Redvers Buller and Sir George White relative to the siege of Ladysmith.

*MR. BRODRICK: No, Sir; it is not the custom to publish such communications.

YEOMANRY TRAINING CONDITIONS.

MR. CARLILE (Buckinghamshire, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state what the conditions of training for Yeomanry regiments will be this year, whether specially under canvas or not, and of what duration it is likely to be, so that commanding officers may make their arrangements accordingly.

*MR. BRODRICK: As I stated yesterday, an Army Order on this subject will shortly be issued.

IMPERIAL YEOMANRY—FIFE AND FORFAR CONTINGENTS.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the original Fife and Forfar Volunteer contingent of the Imperial Yeomanry, who went out 125 strong, have been reduced by death, disease, and physical weakness to under twenty men now in active service in South Africa: and whether there is a prospect of this remnant, who enlisted fifteen months ago, being enabled to return to their professions and occupations at an early date.

*MR. BRODRICK: Some companies of the Yeomanry have, I know, been very much reduced, but we are not aware of the exact strength of the company referred to. It is not possible to state when the operations in South Africa will permit of the return home of these men, but Lord Kitchener is now endeavouring to spare the men whose cases are the hardest.

GERMAN-MADE FIELD GUNS.

*MR. RENWICK (Newcastle-on-Tyne): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state the nature of the defects in the German-made field guns; also how long will the repairs of the defects occupy; and if it is usual to find similar defects in guns made by British manufacturers.

*MR. BRODRICK: I have already described to the House the nature of the defects found in the carriages of the field guns recently obtained from Germany. The repairs are being carried out with all due expedition. German firms are not unique in having trouble with the axles of gun carriages.

*MR. RENWICK: Is it not the fact that before these defects are remedied the total time occupied will have exceeded that which would have been taken had the orders been given to British firms?

[No answer was returned.]

PAY OF CIVILIAN DOCTORS AND VETERINARY SURGEONS AT HOME STATIONS.

MR. RANDLES (Cumberland, Cockermouth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War, having regard to the fact that the civilian veterinary surgeons at home stations during the war emergency are drawing pay at the rate of £250 per annum and allowances, which brings their pay to over £30 per month, and receive a gratuity of two months pay after twelve months employment, and an extra month's salary for each additional six months service, can he state what increase of salary and gratuity the Government propose paying those civilian medical practitioners who have been engaged at Home stations for the last twelve months and upwards at a salary of only £270 per annum; and, can he explain why the gratuity of £100 for the first year of service with troops at home and £50 for the succeeding years award to civilian medical practitioners holding commissions as medical officers to Volunteer corps and Militia regiments has been refused to the civilian medical practitioners who offered their services during the war, seeing that the rate of pay to the civil surgeons proceeding to South Africa has been increased from one guinea to one and a-half guineas per diem with same allowances and gratuity.

*THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): In regard to the first paragraph the civilian surgeons and veterinary surgeons employed at home stations are paid at army rates and there is no intention of making any alteration in their pay. In regard to the second paragraph, medical officers belonging to the Militia and Volunteers are treated as officers under Army rules, while private medical practitioners are treated according to the terms on which they engage.

ALLOWANCES TO CIVIL SURGEONS WITH THE FIELD FORCE.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that civil surgeons attached to the Field Force in South Africa do not receive Colonial allowance; and, in view of the fact that the cost of living at the seat of war entails heavy expense, will he consider the expediency of increasing the allowances of these officers.

*LORD STANLEY: I have nothing to add to the full reply given by my right hon. friend the Chief Secretary to a question on this subject put by my friend the Member for the Clapham Division on the 7th August, 1900.†

MILITIA NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND THE WAR.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state whether non-commissioned officers of Militia on active service in South Africa retain their Militia rank and the pay attaching to that rank; and, if not, will he state why these non-commissioned officers are degraded after volunteering to go on active service.

*LORD STANLEY: Non-commissioned officers of Militia regiments which volunteer to proceed to South Africa or elsewhere retain their Militia rank. The Militia Reservist who is called up under the Reserve Forces Act joins the Army in the rank of private unless he held the rank of non-commissioned officer on discharge from the Regular forces.

LONDON SCOTTISH VOLUNTEERS.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state whether the detachment of London Scottish Volunteers who sailed from Liverpool for the seat of war in South Africa on the 12th instant were enrolled on the understanding that they would relieve the London Scottish Volunteer detachment which has been on service in South Africa for upwards of a year; and, will this detachment return home so soon as the men now going out reach their destination.

*LORD STANLEY: The detachment mentioned sailed on the 12th instant. The company of Gordon Highlanders now in South Africa is intended to return when the new company arrives, but as I told the hon. Member before, it is not possible to say exactly when Lord Kitchener will be able to spare them.

MR. WEIR: Will the noble Lord answer the latter part of the question?

*LORD STANLEY: I am not in a position to do so.

CHAIRS FOR MILITARY HOSPITALS

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will consider the advisability of replacing the barrack forms without backs now used in the wards of military hospitals by chairs, so that each patient may have one chair.

*LORD STANLEY: The question has been under consideration, but is not finally settled.

PURCHASES OF MUNITIONS OF WAR ABROAD.

MR. BATTY LANGLEY (Sheffield, Attercliffe): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office if he can state how much has been spent during the present financial year in purchasing foreign-made guns and munitions of war.

*LORD STANLEY: These figures can only be given when the accounts are made up.

SWISS MILITARY SYSTEM.

MR. YERBURGH: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can furnish the House with such information as the War Office possesses with regard to the military system of Switzerland as is not of a confidential character.

LORD STANLEY: The handbook of the Swiss Army published by the Intelligence Division of the War Office will give my hon. friend all the information he requires. The book can be obtained through any bookseller, and the price is sixpence.

MR. YERBURGH: In what year was the book published?

LORD STANLEY: I cannot say, but I will show my hon. friend a copy.

MR. YERBURGH: Will the War Office issue it in a cheaper form, so that the general public may be able to study it?

LORD STANLEY: No, Sir, I cannot undertake to do anything of the kind.

SOLDIERS' PENSIONS—CASE OF HENRY BEATTY, LATE 102ND FOOT.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin Co,, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been directed to the case of a man named Henry Beatty, of the late 102nd Foot, who, after having been in the Army and Reserve for twenty-one years and six days, was discharged from the Reserve on 7th January, 1886, with a good conduct certificate; whether he is aware that the greater part of Beatty's period of service was spent in the East Indies, where he contracted fever and ague, the effect of which has been permanently to injure his health and render him incapable of any work requiring much physical exertion; and, will he state whether Beatty is entitled to a pension, and, if so, to what pension; and, if the man has not received it, will he explain on what ground it has been withheld.

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† See *The Parliamentary Debates* [Fourth Series], Vol. lxxxvii., p. 913.

Lord STANLEY: This man served thirteen years 193 days with the colours, which, under the terms of his engagement, did not entitle him to a pension. As he was discharged on the termination of his period of engagement, and not on account of any disability contracted while in the service, there is no regulation under which any grant can be made to him.

MARK IV. BULLETS.

Mr. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office for what reason 4,500,000 Mark IV. bullets were recently broken up.

Lord STANLEY: As no more Mark IV. ammunition was to be made the bullets were useless, and were therefore broken up.

Mr. WEIR: By what firms were the bullets made?

Lord STANLEY: I am afraid that does not arise from the question on the Paper.

H.M.S. "ST. VINCENT" AND "BRITANNIA."

Mr. EUGENE WASON (Clackmannan and Kinross): I beg to ask the Civil Lord of the Admiralty whether he is aware that an outbreak of influenza followed by pneumonia occurred on board H.M.S. "St. Vincent," at Portsmouth, last year owing to the contamination of the site of her moorings, and that since the moorings have been dredged there has not been any similar outbreak on board the "St. Vincent"; can he state how long she was away from her moorings; and will he cause the "Britannia" to be removed to other moorings, and not to be again moored in the same position until the site has been thoroughly dredged and the accumulation of filth for years removed.

***The SECRETARY to the ADMIRALTY** (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.): There was an outbreak of influenza, accompanied by lung and other affections, on board the "St. Vincent" in 1899. The ship was specially inspected at the time by the Medical Director General; the whole question of her sanitary condition was inquired into, and the ship was thoroughly overhauled. There was no evidence that the outbreak was due to contamination at the site of the moorings, but the moorings were in fact dredged because it was found that the ship touched the ground at low water. There has been no outbreak of any importance since the date named. The "St. Vincent" left her moorings on the 6th July, 1900, and returned to them on the 20th October. A committee, composed of the following gentlemen: Sir Henry Norbury (Medical Director General), Professor Caulfield, Inspector General Fisher, Fleet Surgeon May, has been engaged during the last two days in examining H.M.S. "Britannia" and making inquiry into all the circumstances likely to affect the health of the cadets. The committee has now terminated its inquiry, and its report is expected immediately. Until that report is received I should prefer to postpone answering the last part of the hon. Member's question; but I may say there is no reason to believe that there is any accumulation of filth under the "Britannia."

RETURN OF FLEETS.

***Sir CHARLES DILKE** (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he can say on what day he hopes that the Return of Fleets will be circulated to Members.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The Return is very voluminous, and I fear it will not be possible to circulate it for another week or so.

IRELAND AND NAVAL CONSTRUCTION.

MR. M'GOVERN (Cavan, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can state how many of the twenty vessels which are in the course of construction for the Royal Navy are being built in Ireland; how many of the thirty-three new vessels that are to be built in the coming financial year will be built in Ireland; how much of the £30,875,500 which it is proposed to spend on the Navy in the coming year will be paid by the people of Ireland; and how much of this sum will be spent in Ireland; and can he say what reasons, if any, exist why the Government should not establish a dockyard at Cork or Dublin in which some of these vessels could be built, in order that some of the money raised in Ireland should be spent there.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: None of the twenty vessels which are in course of construction for the Royal Navy are being built in Ireland, nor will any of the thirty-three new vessels, referred to in the question as being in course of construction in the coming financial year, be built in that country. No tender for the construction of ships for the Royal Navy has been received from any Irish firm. A tender has been received from an Irish firm for the construction of machinery. This tender has been accepted, and the engines are now being manufactured. It is impossible at present to state how much of the funds voted for the Navy will be spent in Ireland during the forthcoming year. The Admiralty are not aware what proportion of the sum which may be voted for the Navy will be paid by the people of Ireland. The interests of the Navy do not at present require the establishment of a dockyard at Cork or Dublin; but I may remind the hon. Member that there is a Government dockyard at Haulbowline, and that the establishment of this dockyard, and the expenditure in connection with it, have both been greatly increased during the past year.

MR. CREAN (Cork, S.E.): Is any Irish firm entitled to tender for Government work?

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Any firm which sends a requisition to be placed on the list of Government contractors has the application considered on its merits, and, if found suitable, is invited to tender.

GAYA BAY, BRITISH NORTH BORNEO.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the First Lord of the Admiralty is aware that Gaya Bay, British North Borneo, affords excellent accommodation as a harbour and naval base; and, in view of the fact that coal is readily available, will he consider the expediency of having the district surveyed with a view to the establishment of a naval station.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The Admiralty are aware that Gaya Bay is a good anchorage, but it is not considered suitable as a naval base, and it is not proposed to utilise it for that purpose.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL AND TRAVERS' FOUNDATION.

SIR JOHN LENG: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the Board of Admiralty receives, in addition to the capital and income account of Greenwich Hospital and Travers' Foundation, annual reports on the administration of the hospital and foundation; and, if so, whether these can be published along with the statements of the Finances.

*THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. PRETYMAN, Suffolk, Woodbridge): The affairs of the Greenwich Hospital and Travers' Foundation are entirely under the management and control of the Admiralty, and an annual report on their administration is received. Such information as it is considered necessary to furnish is already published with the Estimates.

RHODESIA—NATIVE LABOUR.

MR. THOMAS BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has received information, through the British South Africa Company, or from other sources, as to collisions at Salisbury last December between the British South Africa Police and natives imported from Somaliland for service in Rhodesia, and as to disturbances at Beira in January with other natives imported for similar service; and, if so, whether he will inform the House as to the facts; whether he will inform the House as to any arrangements now in progress for obtaining native labour for Rhodesia from outside areas, which are within the knowledge of His Majesty's Government, and have received or may be awaiting its approval; and whether any reports have been received by the High Commissioner for South Africa from the Resident Commissioner in Rhodesia as to the condition and treatment of natives in the British South Africa Company's territory; and, if so, whether they will be communicated to the House.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: (1) I have seen an account of the collision at Salisbury on 31st December in the *Rhodesia Herald*, and I am expecting a reply from Sir A. Milner. As to the disturbance at Beira, I would refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Northampton yesterday. (2) The Administration of Southern Rhodesia have applied to His Majesty's Government to obtain a removal of the prohibition against native labour being introduced from Portuguese East Africa, and His Majesty's Government are in communication with the Portuguese Government on the subject. The question of obtaining labour from the Northern Transvaal, which is not possible for the moment in the disturbed state of the country, is under consideration. (3) Such a report has been received by Sir A. Milner, who will no doubt send it on as soon as the pressure of work leaves him time to consider and comment upon it.

WEST COAST OF AFRICA—LABOUR LAWS.

Mr. CAINE (Cornwall, Camborne): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he will consent to a Return of the laws and regulations affecting labour in those parts of the West African dominions of His Majesty in which gold reefs are being worked.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The special laws affecting labour on the Gold Coast are the Master and Servant Ordinance, 1893, the Slave Dealing Abolition and the Emancipation Ordinance of 1874. A copy of the laws of the Gold Coast will be placed in the Library. I cannot help thinking there must be some misconception of the answer I gave the other day, when I spoke of the ordinary law of the Gold Coast as seeming to me sufficient to deal with this case. I was not referring to any special law.

Mr. CAINE: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware there are a great number of miners up and down the country, specially in Cornwall, who being out of work in consequence of the war in South Africa, are looking to West Africa for a fresh sphere of employment, and are consequently anxious to know what are the conditions of labour obtaining there? Would not a fuller statement on these laws be of value to them?

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I do not think it is possible to furnish any such statement as to the special laws on the Gold Coast.

CHINA—ANGLO-RUSSIAN DISPUTE AT TIENTSIN.

Mr. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the attention of the Government has been called to what took place in China recently when the Russians objected to the construction of a railway siding by the British; whether General Barrow, Chief of the Staff, met the Russian objection by ordering the construction of the siding to be completed, if necessary, by force of arms, and had troops placed along the line while the work was continued; whether the Russian General protested against this action; and whether General Barrow acted under instructions received from His Majesty's Government.

*The SECRETARY of STATE for INDIA (Lord G. Hamilton, Middlesex, Ealing): I am informed that some land over which the North of China Administration have proprietary rights has been claimed by the Russian military authorities as belonging to them in virtue of a concession alleged to have been made to them by the Chinese Government when the disturbances commenced. I am informed that, consequently, some difficulties have arisen with regard to the construction of the sidings referred to in the question. The matter is being dealt with by the authorities on the spot, but not under any special instructions from His Majesty's Government.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): Arising out of this matter, may I ask the noble Lord whether in cases of dispute between the allied Powers in China British officers are entitled to threaten to use force without consulting the Home Government?

*LORD G. HAMILTON: In reply to that question, I may say that right throughout the Chinese operations British officers have shown conciliation in meeting every difficulty. I do not therefore consider it necessary to send any special instructions.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Will the noble Lord kindly answer the latter part of the question and say whether General Barrow did threaten to use force of arms, and whether in so doing he acted on his own authority or on the authority of the Home Government?

*LORD G. HAMILTON: I do not know on what authority the hon. Member makes the statement.

AN HON. MEMBER: Reuter.

*LORD G. HAMILTON: I think if he looks at the telegram he will see that all General Barrow has done has been to ensure the protection of people working in territory belonging to a British company.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: But——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The question on the Paper has been fully answered.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I will call attention to this matter on an early day.

CHINA—COST OF WARLIKE OPERATIONS.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he can state the estimated total cost up to the present date of the recent military and naval operations in China.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): I will do my best to answer this question, but I cannot be at all certain as to the accuracy of the answer. The estimated total cost of the military operations in China to the present date is three and a half millions in round figures. I am informed that at the present stage it is impossible to give an estimate of the total cost of the naval operations.

EAST INDIA—PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

MR. KIMBER (Wandsworth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will grant the Return entitled East India (Petitions of Officers of Public Works Department).

*LORD G. HAMILTON: I have no objection to granting the Return, but a reference to India will be necessary to render it complete.

INDIAN MILITARY OUTPOSTS.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will state what military outposts were maintained at the close of 1898 beyond the frontiers of His Majesty's Indian possessions; whether he can give the aggregate strength of the garrisons by which these posts were held and the class of troops occupying them, and what was the estimated annual cost of the occupation of these positions; and whether he will state what is the present position as to the number, cost, and disposition of troops holding these military outposts.

*LORD G. HAMILTON: There were in 1898 no military outposts maintained on the North-West Frontier outside the boundary of the Durand delimitation, and since the ratification of that Agreement the line so defined is held to be the external frontier of British India.

WINTER CROPS IN BOMBAY AND MADRAS.

MR. CAINE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he can give further information as to the condition of the winter crops in the Bombay Presidency and parts of Madras; and whether he will state what steps are being taken to deal with a renewal of the distress.

*LORD G. HAMILTON: In Bombay the autumn harvest was poor, and the area sown below the average; the spring crop prospects are bad throughout a large portion of the Presidency. In Madras the harvest is below the average to the extent of about 20 per cent. In Burma, Bengal, and Upper India the prospects are such that these provinces will have surplus food with which to supply the wants of those localities where the crops are poor. It is only in the Bombay Presidency that the circumstances are such as to make special relief measures necessary. The Government have provided funds for this purpose, and are taking steps, according to the provisions of the Famine Codes, for carrying on and extending any relief operations which may be necessary.

INDIAN MEMORIAL TO QUEEN VICTORIA.

MR. CAINE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will state what amount has been subscribed in India for a memorial to Her late Majesty Queen Victoria; and whether he can suggest to the Viceroy that this memorial should be such as to confer some permanent benefit upon the suffering masses in India.

*LORD G. HAMILTON: I have received no information as to the amount subscribed in India to celebrate by memorials the memory of Her late Majesty. The matter is not an official one, and I could not interfere with the discretion of the subscribers as to the purpose to which their subscriptions should be put.

INDIAN FAMINE—PROVISION FOR ORPHANS.

MR. CAINE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that, owing to the mortality in the Bombay Presidency from famine and disease, numbers of orphans have been left entirely dependent upon charity; and whether he will state what has been done to provide for these children, and what public funds have been allotted to the support of public and private orphanages.

*LORD G. HAMILTON: Unhappily, orphans are left after every serious Indian famine. After the 1897 famine about six lakhs of rupees were set apart for the maintenance of orphans. Volumes I. and II. of the Charitable Relief Fund Report describe at more length what was done. Briefly, it may be said that a yearly sum was provided from Government or charitable funds for the support of every really destitute orphan, whether the child was in the keeping of co-religionists or of mission orphanages. I have no doubt similar arrangements will be made by the Government this year. But I have not received and have not asked for a special report upon the subject.

SURAT DISTRICT LAND REVENUES.

MR. CAINE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that in the Surat District, out of a total of 95 per cent. of land revenue collected last year, 85 per cent. was received from the money-lenders and only 10 per cent. from the cultivators; can he state under what authority the land revenue was received from money-lenders who are not in possession of the land, and what interest is exacted by the money-lenders from the cultivators for these advances; and whether, looking to the existing indebtedness of the cultivators, he will direct this practice to be abandoned.

LORD G. HAMILTON: The matters to which this question refers are being investigated by the Famine Commission. Until I receive the Report of the Commission and the opinion of the Government of India, I do not propose to take any action.

CHINA AND EARTHENWARE TRADES —NEW RULES.

Mr. COGHILL (Stoke-upon-Trent): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the proposed new rules for the china and earthenware trades were adopted on the advice of Professors Oliver and Thorpe; and whether either of these gentlemen has had any practical experience of these trades, or have ever been personally engaged in the production of china or earthenware.

*The SECRETARY of STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon): The rules were based on Reports made by Doctors Oliver and Thorpe. Dr. Thorpe has been specially consulted on the chemical questions which have arisen in drafting the rules. These gentlemen are not pottery manufacturers; but they are experts in the scientific questions on which they were consulted.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. TENNANT (Berwickshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he can state when he proposes to introduce the Bill to amend the Factory and Workshop Acts of which he has given notice.

*Mr. RITCHIE: I am afraid not.

Mr. TENNANT: Will it be before Easter?

*Mr. RITCHIE: Probably it will be, but I cannot say absolutely.

NEW CODE OF RAILWAY BYE-LAWS.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether the New Code of Railway Bye-laws, which was submitted to the Board of Trade upwards of three years ago, and remitted to the railway companies with certain modifications and suggestions, has again been submitted to the Board for confirmation; and, if not, will he state the general tenor of the replies given by the railway companies to the Board's repeated requests for the adoption of a satisfactory code of railway bye-laws.

The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of TRADE (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central): As the House is aware, railway bye-laws are submitted to the Board of Trade by individual companies desiring to adopt them, and any confirmation by the Board is a confirmation of a particular system of bye-laws so submitted. It is obviously desirable, however, that the bye-laws of the railway companies should be, as far as it is possible to make them, uniform; and the Board of Trade have been using their best efforts to procure that there shall be submitted to them a system of bye-laws, which may be discussed and accepted as a model code. Up to the present the Board of Trade have not succeeded in these negotiations. I am assured that there is no indisposition on the part of the companies to bring the matter to a conclusion, and I venture to hope that they will succeed in agreeing among themselves as to a system of bye-laws submitted either by an individual company or by the Railway Association, and which may be discussed with the representatives of the companies and other persons interested, with a view to their adoption as a model code.

IMPORTS OF GERMAN-MADE BRUSHES.

Mr. BATTY LANGLEY: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can state what is the value of German-made brushes imported into this country during the year 1900; and whether he can say what quantity has been stopped or confiscated on the ground of being made by convict labour.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: Brushes are included with brooms in the official trade accounts, and no separate particulars as to brushes are available. The total value of the imports of brooms and brushes from Germany in 1900 was £45,968. German-made brooms and brushes may reach this country viâ other countries, such as Holland and Belgium, and these would consequently be returned as importations from such countries. No imported German-made brushes appear to have been stopped or confiscated on the ground of being made by convict labour during the year 1900.

ENGINE EXPLOSIONS ON THE LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE RAILWAY.

MR. BELL (Derby): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the engine 676, which exploded on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway on the 11th instant, was reported on 28th January last as being defective, with tubes badly leaking, and that in consequence the driver had to give up the train of coal he was then working, for which he has been degraded to a fireman's place, at a reduction of 1s. per day in wages; and will he direct an inquiry to be held in this case.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: No, Sir. I am not aware of any such report. If the hon. Member refers to a report made to the company by one of its officers, it would not come under my notice. I will, however, see that the inspecting officer who holds the inquiry into the accident shall have his attention directed to the allegation contained in the hon. Member's question.

CONSTITUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRADE.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can state who are the members of the Board of Trade, excluding the Advisory or Consultative Committee, and irrespective of permanent officials; whether those Members of the Board attend meetings, and how many such meetings have been held since he became president; and whether he can state what functions those Members are called upon to exercise.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The "Board of Trade" means the Lords of the Committee for the time being of the Privy Council appointed for the consideration of matters relating to trade and foreign plantations. Under an Order in Council of 1786 these Lords include:—The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, the First Lord of the Treasury, the First Lord of the Admiralty, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Speaker of the House of Commons, and such Lords as hold the following offices, namely: the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and the Paymaster General of His Majesty's Forces. It is not customary to summon a meeting of all these members.

MR. FIELD: Does the Board of Trade ever meet? If so, how many attend?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The Board of Trade does meet. The quorum consists of one—myself.*

IRISH AND SCOTTISH LIGHTHOUSE BOARDS.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the annual meeting of Associated Chambers of Commerce yesterday passed a resolution unanimously resolving that the constitution of Lighthouse Boards, particularly those of Ireland and Scotland, is unsatisfactory; and whether he will support a private Bill or introduce a measure to reconstitute the Irish and Scotch Lighthouse Boards.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: No copy of such a resolution has yet reached me. As I have more than once informed the hon. Member, His Majesty's Government do not, as at present advised, contemplate legislation dealing with the constitution of the Irish and Scottish Lighthouse authorities.

VACCINATION—LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD CIRCULAR.

MR. LEVY (Leicestershire, Loughborough): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, having regard to the declaration of his predecessor in this House on the 20th of July, 1898, that the administration of a compulsory vaccination law would be neither necessary nor desirable, and the tacit promise of the same Minister on the same date that the Local Government Board would not do anything to interfere with the relations between vaccination officers and the guardians who employ and pay them, he will withdraw the circular issued by the Local Government Board.

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* Reference may be made to *The Parliamentary History*, Vol. xxi., page 233, for the discussions on Burke's abortive "Establishment Bill" of 1780. The clause for abolishing the old Board of Trade was vigorously opposed, and passed through Committee by a majority of only eight. On page 241 one of Burke's opponents traces the institution of councils or commissions of trade to very early times.

MR. CHAPLIN (Lincolnshire, Sleaford): As the question of the hon. Member contains two distinct statements referring to myself, perhaps before it is answered I may be allowed to make a personal explanation. The hon. Member is new to the House, and is probably not aware that I have repeatedly explained that the first statement alluded to refers solely to the concession made by the Government at that time. As to the second statement, I have repeatedly shown that both the statement and the inferences which are drawn from it are equally erroneous.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): My right hon. friend has dealt with the allegations contained in the question, and it only remains for me to say that I must decline to withdraw the circular.

POST OFFICE—TWINE CONTRACT.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he can say when the contract for twine supplied to the Post Office was last renewed, and the name of the present contractor; whether he is a manufacturer of twine; whether the contract is for hemp twine, and whether that article is being supplied; and when he again proposes to submit the contract for tender.

*THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): There are ten kinds of twine, string, and cord used by the Post Office, and supplies are obtained partly from the Prison Commissioners and partly from two contractors, Messrs. Ullathorne and Co. and Mr. I. N. Lyons, the contracts with whom were made in 1895 and are terminable by six months notice. Both are manufacturers of twine. The materials specified for the various kinds of twine, &c., are hemp, flax, and jute, and the supplies are carefully tested on delivery to see that they conform to specification. It is not considered desirable to invite fresh tenders at present.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: Are the contracts of any other Department subject to similar conditions as to termination?

*MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Yes' Sir, many contracts are so determined.

VALE OF CLWYD POSTAL SERVICE.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware of the inconvenience long felt by the residents of Denbigh and Ruthin, and other places in the Vale of Clwyd, owing to the system by which the mail postal service is worked; whether he is aware that the town of Denbigh is served by a mail cart, which is driven all the way from Denbigh to Rhyl, calling en route at Trefnant, St. Asaph, and Rhuddlan, and travelling along a road which most of the distance runs alongside the line of the London and North Western Railway Company from Denbigh to Rhyl; whether he is further aware that letters from Ruthin are similarly driven in a mail cart from Ruthin over the mountain to Mold, and from Mold on to Flint, although there is a railway connection from Ruthin to Chester either viâ Rhyl or viâ Mold; whether he can state the reason why this system, in vogue previous to the opening of the railway connections between the London and North Western Railway main line and the Vale of Clwyd, is perpetuated; and whether, seeing that these railway facilities for the carrying of the mails from these towns are, and have long been, available, he will, in the public interest, take steps for securing a more expeditious transference of the mails in the district referred to.

*MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The night mails for and from Ruthin and Denbigh are conveyed by mail cart in the manner described by the hon. Member ber. There are no trains at present running which could be used for that service, and when the railway company were last communicated with on the subject they were not willing to put on trains at suitable hours except for a payment considerably greater than the service warranted. As, however, some years have elapsed since the matter was last inquired into, the Postmaster General has given instructions for renewed inquiry to be made, and he will communicate the result to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS: Has the hon. Gentleman received information that since this question was put down there has, owing to an accident, been another delay of one and a half hours?

*MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Yes, Sir. But it is not merely to mail carts that accidents happen.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS: But is not the hon. Gentleman aware that these accidents and delays frequently occur?

*MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I am not aware of that.

ASSISTANTS OF CUSTOMS.

MR. JOHN GORDON (Londonderry, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that the promise made by his predecessor on 31st July last, that the outdoor officers promoted to the grade of Assistants of Customs, who did practically the same work in their former posts, would have that fact recognised by being placed at a higher point in the scale of salary assigned to Assistants of Customs, has not been fulfilled, and that these officers have been informed that no further recognition must be looked for; and if he will state why this promise has not been fulfilled, and whether he will take measures to see that it is carried out.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Yes, Sir, I am aware of the promise made by my right hon. friend that the men who, before they were appointed to the new class of Assistants of Customs, had as outdoor officers been doing work equal to that of the new class, should count the time during which they had done such work and take their position in future in the scale of the new class accordingly. Steps were at once taken to carry out this promise. After careful consideration it was decided to allow them to count all time in excess of three years served as outdoor officers as if it were time spent on duties equal to that of the new class, and that to give effect to the promise made each of the officers affected should be placed at the point which he would have reached if he had become an assistant on the completion of three years service as outdoor officer. On applying this rule to the individual cases it was found that owing to a special concession made to this class of officer in March, 1897, the benefit of the concession promised by my right hon. friend was already enjoyed in practice by the whole of the staff concerned with some few very slight and temporary exceptions, not amounting in most cases to more than a few shillings. I have directed that in all these cases the difference, whatever it is, shall be paid to the officers concerned; and when this has been done the promise of my right hon. friend will have been completely fulfilled.

DISMISSALS—CASE OF MR. CARELESS.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that Mr. Careless, a post office sorter, has recently been dismissed, after sixteen years good conduct service, on a charge of stealing and cashing a postal order value 8s. 6d.; that Mr. Careless denies the charge and demands to be prosecuted so that he may prove his innocence; that the post office, though they have deducted the 8s. 6d. from his pay, refuse to prosecute him; and whether it is in accordance with the rules of the public service to dismiss an old official for stealing, deduct the loss from his wages, and yet refuse to prosecute him when he demands to be tried to prove his innocence.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: In reply to the hon. Member I have to state that Mr. Alfred Charles Careless, late a sorter attached to the Circulation Branch at the chief office was recently dismissed by the Postmaster General, as he was of opinion that Mr. Careless was not a fit person to be retained in the service. The Postmaster General is unable to admit the principle that he is bound to prosecute a post office servant for an alleged irregularity before dismissing him. The Postmaster General must in the interest of the public service exercise a discretion in such matters.

Mr. BARTLEY: May I ask whether this sorter was dismissed not for irregularity and unsuitability, but for absolute stealing? Was not the money said to have been stolen deducted from his wages, and has he not asked to be prosecuted for stealing in order to be may have an opportunity of proving his innocence?

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: There was a deduction made as stated in the question. The reply given to me by the Postmaster General is that which I have read. It says that Mr. Careless was dismissed because the Postmaster General did not think him a fit person to be retained in the service. If Mr. Careless considers himself aggrieved he has his remedy against the Postmaster General, who cannot undertake to order a prosecution in every case in which he feels it necessary to dispense with anyone's service.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): Will the Postmaster General defend the action if one is brought?

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I must ask for notice of that.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): In view of precedents recently set by another Department, cannot this man, who is unfit for service at home, be sent to Gibraltar?

[No answer was returned.]

COMPULSORY RETIREMENT FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE.

Sir GEORGE NEWNES (Swansea Town): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he can state the objections, if any, to assimilating the age fixed for the compulsory retirement of officials from the Post Office, and Inland Revenue, and Customs Departments respectively; and will he take steps for the assimilation in future of the practice of these Departments.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The Orders in Council while making retirement compulsory at the age of sixty-five, leave it to the discretion of heads of departments to call upon their officers to retire at sixty if they see fit. The Treasury think it important to maintain the discretion and responsibility thus vested in the heads of Departments, and they are not prepared to interfere with the existing practice.

AVOCH HARBOUR.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the Secretary for Scotland is aware that one side of the harbour of Avoch, Ross-shire, has been entirely swept away, and that apart from this the harbour is in a bad state of repair; is he aware that during a storm a year ago several boats inside the harbour belonging to fishermen of the district were completely wrecked; and will he state who is responsible for the maintenance of the harbour, and what steps he proposes to take in order to secure the repair of the harbour.

*The LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire): I am informed by the Fishery Board that the answer to the first paragraph of the hon. Member's question is in the negative, and to the second in the affirmative, and in reply to the third I may point out that the Secretary for Scotland has no source of information not equally open to the hon. Member himself, and no means of securing the repair of the harbour as seems to be suggested by the hon. Member.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION IN THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS OF SCOTLAND.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether, in view of the difficulty experienced in securing suitable hospital accommodation in the poorer districts of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, he will consider the expediency of introducing legislation such as will provide for the establishment and maintenance of hospitals in congested areas.

*Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The Secretary for Scotland would not be disinclined, should a favourable opportunity present itself, to amend the Congested Districts (Scotland) Act, 1897, in one or two respects, and in this event he will consider whether the point mentioned in the hon. Member's question can be provided for.

CONGESTION IN THE ISLAND OF LEWIS.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the Secretary for Scotland has received a petition from the Landward Committee of the Stornoway Parish Council calling attention to the congested condition of the Island of Lewis and the consequent evils arising therefrom; and will he state whether the Congested Districts Board have made any efforts to secure land in Lewis, at places other than in the Point District, suitable for new holdings; and if so, will he give particulars.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The answer to the first portion of the hon. Member's question is in the affirmative. The answer to the second portion is also in the affirmative, namely at Aignish, Gress and Croir.

MR. WEIR: What is the acreage of land sought to be secured?

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I cannot answer that without notice.

IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT RULES AND ORDERS.

MR. CLANCY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can explain why the further Return of rules or orders made or issued under or in consequence of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, which was promised on the 20th July last year by his predecessor, has not since been laid upon the Table of the House.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say when the rules and orders of the Local Government Board (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 360, of Session 1899), promised last year, will be issued.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): The Return was laid on the Table and ordered to be printed in August last. The rules and orders are ready for press, but there has been unavoidable delay in the preparation of the index. This has now been completed, and the Return will be distributed at an early date.

IRISH DAIRY INDUSTRIES.

MR. O'MARA (Kilkenny, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Department of Agriculture is aware that all dairies must be registered, and that all preservatives except common salt are prohibited for butter in Denmark; and further that in the same country pasteurisation of milk has recently been made compulsory in all dairies with the objects of preventing the spread of contagious disease, of improving the flavour of butter, and of increasing keeping qualities of same; and whether he contemplates introducing legislation dealing with any of these matters in Ireland.

MR. WYNDHAM: The facts are as stated in the question. In Ireland all dairies from which milk is sold to the public, as well as all co-operative dairies in which butter is manufactured, are registered. With regard to preservatives, the Department of Agriculture thinks it advisable to await the report of the Committee appointed by the English Local Government Board to inquire into the use of preservatives in food, before expressing an opinion on the question of special legislation on the subject. As regards the pasteurisation, the Department is prepared to make advances upon favourable terms to enable owners of dairies to erect pasteurising plant, but it does not, at present, consider that legislation making pasteurisation compulsory is required.

LABOURERS' COTTAGES AT BIRR.

MR. REDDY (King's County, Birr): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that out of forty-five applications for labourers' cottages in the Birr No. 1 Rural District, and approved of by that District Council, only seven were passed by the Local Government Board; and whether, when the next inquiry for the erection of labourers' cottages in that union is held, some inspector other than that who has recently reported will be sent to take the evidence and report upon it.

MR. WYNDHAM: The facts are correctly stated in the first paragraph. The rejection of so many applications was due to the careless manner in which the scheme was prepared, the provisions of the Act in some respects having been wholly disregarded. The inspector who held the inquiry is one of the most experienced officers of the Board, and I cannot give the undertaking asked in the second paragraph.

IRISH CONGESTED DISTRICTS RETURN.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will grant the Return respecting Congested Districts (Ireland), which stands on to-day's Paper.*

MR. WYNDHAM: It is not possible to give the information indicated under all the headings of this Return. But I have collected together as much as is procurable, and will forward it to the hon. Member privately, as soon as it has been tabulated.

BELFAST PAUPER GRAVEYARDS.

MR. T. M. HEALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether complaints have been made to the Local Government Board as to the overcrowded condition of the pauper graveyard, Belfast; can he say what is its area; and has any record been kept of the number interred; is he aware that the medical officer of health condemns it as insanitary and that there are a number of working men's houses in close proximity to the graveyard, and will he cause inquiry to be made into this matter.

MR. WYNDHAM: The area of the workhouse cemetery is about two and a half acres, and a record is kept. The medical officer of health has not condemned the cemetery as insanitary; dwelling houses have been erected in the neighbourhood. The Local Government Board has been in correspondence with the guardians on the subject of providing additional accommodation, and the Board understands that the guardians are now taking steps to this end.

PHŒNIX PARK, DUBLIN—USE FOR MILITARY PURPOSES.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the military authorities in Dublin have made any request that an extended area of Phœnix Park should be placed at their service for military training operations; if so, what further portions of the park were asked for, and what further portions, if any, have been given for military purposes; and will he take care that no further encroachments are made upon the areas of the park used by the public for amusements.

MR. WYNDHAM: The correspondence referred to dealt mainly with access by a shorter route to the fifteen acres, and to certain facilities for practising extended formations over wider areas. No encroachment will be made on areas used for games.

OMAGH DISTRICT CEMETERY.

MR. MURNAGHAN (Tyrone, Mid): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a loan for the purpose of providing a cemetery for the district of Omagh was sanctioned in the year 1899, and an instalment of £1,000 for warded in September, 1899, to the Omagh Rural District Council, and that the amount expended by the council to the 1st April, 1900, was £2,077, on which date the control of the cemetery was transferred to the Omagh Urban Council, thus leaving a balance due to the rural district council of £1,077; and, having regard to the fact that the several applications to the Local Government Board for the payment of this £1,077 remain unanswered to the detriment of the rural council, which is responsible to the Ulster Bank for this sum with interest at the rate of four per cent., will he state the cause of delay, and when the money will be forwarded.

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* The following is the Return alluded to:—Congested Districts (Ireland).—Return showing (1) total rateable value of the Congested District portion of county Kerry; (2) total area and population of same; (3) total amount of money expended in Kerry by the Congested Districts Board since the passing of the Act of 1891; (4) how and when has such money been expended; (5) has the money available for the purposes of the Act been distributed in accordance with Section 36, subsection 3 of the Purchase of Land Act, 1891, which says that the money be apportioned between the Congested Districts Counties in proportion to their population; (6) total amount which under this section should since the passing of the Act be paid to Kerry; (7) how many estates in Kerry have been listed for sale under the 40th section of the Land Act of 1896; (8) how many of such estates have the Congested Districts Board endeavoured to purchase; (9) what is the cause of the delay in the sale of such estates to the tenants.

MR. WYNDHAM: The figures are correctly stated in the first paragraph. No applications to the Local Government Board for payment of the sum of £1,077 remain unanswered. The Board approved of the issue of a further instalment of £800 to the Urban Council in October last. The question of the adjustment of the liabilities of the Urban and Rural District Council is still unsettled. The authorities have agreed to refer the matters in dispute for settlement by an adjusting officer of the Local Government Board, and until the formal agreement to this effect is before the Board it cannot take any action in the matter.

MR. MURNAGHAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, seeing that although the extended time allowed by the Local Government Board Order for closing the old burial ground at Omagh expired on 1st March, the new cemetery is not ready to receive interments nor is it likely to be ready for several months, he will advise the Local Government Board to still further extend the time of closing the Drumragh burial ground.

MR. WYNDHAM: If such an application be made to the Board by the local authority, the period will be extended.

ROXBORO ROAD SCHOOL.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Roxboro Road School premises are let to Rev. Canon Greg as tenant from year to year, in contravention of the terms of the Act, vesting them in the trustees, in the several schemes drawn up by the Educational Endowment Commission and agreed to on the part of Roman Catholics and Protestants, that the value of these premises when realised should be devoted to the interests of education in Limerick; and does he intend to take any steps to secure this endowment for the people of Limerick.

MR. WYNDHAM: The justices acted within their powers in letting these premises to Dean Greg, not in contravention of the statute, as stated in the question. The several schemes having fallen through, owing to the objection raised to them, nothing can now be done without legislation, as the powers of the Commissioners are spent.

MR. JOYCE: So there is no law to prevent such trust funds being diverted from the purposes for which they were created? Are we in Ireland to be governed by no law founded on fair play and justice?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

SHILLELAGH UNION TROUBLES.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can give the names of the witnesses summoned by Dr. Flinn on behalf of Nurse Joyce in connection with the recent Local Government Board inquiry at Shillelagh; also the names of those witnesses who gave evidence for Nurse Joyce, and of those who did not give evidence.

MR. WYNDHAM: I am communicating the information desired in the question to the hon. Member privately.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: I do not want the information privately. This is a matter of great importance, concerning as it does a medical officer of the Local Government Board, so I will put the question on Monday.

MR. WYNDHAM: A long list of names can convey nothing to the House.

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR: It is not a long list. There are only eight names. I want them published.

Mr. WYNDHAM: I do not object to reading the names.

THOMASTOWN PETTY SESSIONAL BENCH.

Mr. O'MARA: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland what is the number of Protestant and the number of Roman Catholic magistrates in Thomastown petty sessions district; whether he is aware that for twenty years no Roman Catholic magistrate was appointed in this district, and that 95 per cent. of the population are Roman Catholics; and whether any steps will be taken to remedy this grievance.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The numbers are eight and none respectively. There is no information which would enable me to reply to the second and third paragraphs of the question. The Lieutenant of the county and the Lord Chancellor will be prepared to consider the names of any gentlemen recommended to them by the hon. Member.

THOMASTOWN SANITATION.

Mr. O'MARA: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if a resolution has been received from Thomastown Rural District Council, by the Local Government Board, asking them to send their medical and engineering inspectors to visit Thomastown and report on sanitation of same; whether he is aware that the medical officer of health reperted twelve months ago some portions of Thomastown as dangerous to the public health; and whether he can give any assurance that Local Government Board inspectors will visit and report in the near future.

Mr. WYNDHAM: It forms no part of the duty of the Local Government Board's engineers to advise local authorities in the manner suggested; the Rural Council should employ a competent engineer. The medical officer of health reported some time ago in favour of an improved scheme of drainage. The Board will communicate with the Council shortly on the subject, and will instruct one of their medical inspectors to attend and give the Council any assistance in his power.

POISONING SALMON SPAWNING GROUNDS.

Mr. CARVILL (Newry): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware of a practice in some parts of the west coast of Ireland of poisoning the spawning resorts with pounded makkinbwee, to the injury of the salmon industry; and that the fishermen and their families, some 300 souls, resident on the island of Rossmore in the Kenmare river, complain that by reason of this poisoning their chief soruce of living is reduced and imperilled; and whether, seeing that at petty sessions detected persons have been frequently fined without bringing redress, he will consider what other step can be taken to put a stop to the practice complained of.

Mr. WYNDHAM: Considerable damage is done to the salmon fisheries in some parts of Ireland by the poisoning of rivers with the plant indicated in the question (*Euphorbia Hibernica*). The plant grows in great profusion, and it is very difficult to detect persons actually putting it in the water. The Irish Inland Fisheries Commissioners in their recent Report recommended some amendments in the law with a view to dealing with this offence, and these recommendations are now engaging the attention of the Department of Agriculture.

IRISH BOARD OF WORKS CHAIRMANSHIP.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Chairman of the Board of Works, Ireland, has resigned and whether his resignation has been accepted; whether any appointment has yet been made to the office; and, if so, whether he can say who has been appointed, and what are his qualifications for the office.

Mr. WYNDHAM: Perhaps the hon. Member will repeat this question on Monday, and address it to my right hon. friend the First Lord of the Treasury.

STEWARTSTOWN -ST. PATRICK'S DAY MEETING.

MR. DOOGAN (Tyrone, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether it has come to his knowledge that arrangements have been made to hold a public meeting on the 18th instant in the vicinity of Stewartstown, County Tyrone, to commemorate the national festival of Ireland; is he aware that, notwithstanding the fact that a number of people would require to pass into and through the town to attend the meeting, the local magistrates have issued a proclamation forbidding excursionists to pass through Stewartstown on Monday next; and whether this action of the magistrates will be reviewed and cancelled.

MR. WYNDHAM: The promoters of the meeting have been warned that it cannot be allowed in the town, because it would undoubtedly lead to a riot; but if it is held outside the town no interference with it will be permitted; nor will persons be prevented from passing through the town to take part in it, so long as nothing in the nature of a procession is formed within the town. The magistrates' action will be supported.

MR. DOOGAN: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the local magistrates have issued a proclamation (I have it here) absolutely forbidding the meeting?

MR. WYNDHAM: The meeting cannot be allowed in the town, but it may take place outside.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Why should the meeting be allowed immemediately outside the town but not in it?

MR. WYNDHAM: It is a matter of police precautions. Meetings of this kind sometimes lead to trouble.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): If the meeting is held outside the town will the proclamation be withdrawn?

MR. WYNDHAM: The proclamation only refers to the town.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Will the Orangemen in the town be confined to barracks on the day?

[No answer was given.]

THE WEXFORD LOCAL GOVERNMENT APPEAL.

MR. JORDAN (Fermanagh, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the decision of the Court of Appeal in the county Wexford case, in reference to the action of the Local Government Board, in increasing the salaries of certain county officials, he will instruct the Local Government Board to hold an inquiry in the county Fermanagh on the matter of such increases in said county.

MR. WYNDHAM: The orders made in the case of the secretary and one assistant surveyor were brought into the Court of King's Bench. In the case of the secretary an agreement was arrived at with the county council. In the case of the assistant surveyor the conditional order was discharged, and that decision was not appealed against; consequently all the orders remain in force, and there appears to be no power to withdraw the orders or to re-open the question.

GREYSTONES PIER AND HARBOUR.

MR. COGAN (Wicklow, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a sum of over £20,000 was expended on the erection of a pier and harbour at Greystones, county Wicklow; that the county surveyor inspected the works in January, 1896, and reported several defects in the works; that the Board of Works issued a warrant in July, 1896, transferring the pier and harbour in an incomplete condition to the grand jury of the county Wicklow, and that the county surveyor reported to the grand jury again in March, 1897, that nothing had been done to the works since his report in January, 1896, and that he found them in a state of partial ruin and positively dangerous; and whether, seeing that the grand jury in the same year passed a resolution that owing to the condition of the Greystones Harbour they declined to accept any responsibility in connection with it or to appoint a harbour master, and that the ratepayers of the barony of Rathdown are charged with an annual payment of £68 for this work, and having regard to the expenditure of public money in this case, the Board of Works will take the necessary steps to put the pier and harbour into proper condition, and enable the county council to take charge of the harbour for the benefit of the locality.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The statements in the first paragraph are generally correct, except that I am unable to say whether the county surveyor in January, 1896, made a report to the late grand jury on the subject. With reference to the inquiry at the conclusion of the question, I can only say at present that the Irish Government is in communication with the Treasury in this and other similar matters.

SALE OF THE DILLON ESTATE.

Mr. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to the legal proceedings in connection with the sale of the Dillon estate by the Congested Districts Board to the tenants, in which a hitch has arisen in consequence of the reservation of sporting rights; in whose interest has this reservation been proposed; is he aware that one of the members of the Land Commission has refused to sanction the advance of public money on account of this reservation, and that further proceedings have been initiated by the Congested Districts Board for the purpose of insisting on the reservation against the wishes of the tenants; and whether it is intended by the Board to insist on the insertion of the reservation clause in the agreements, and so jeopardise the proposed sale.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The matters referred to in this question are down for hearing before the Land Commission Court. I am, therefore, precluded from commenting on them.

LESLIE v. JUSTICES OF MONAGHAN.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that, at the October Sessions of last year, at Monaghan, Henry K. Leslie, agent for the Earl of Dartrey, applied for a transfer of a licence to sell spirituous liquors by retail, which was opposed by a parishioner and refused on the grounds of unfitness and inconvenience of the premises, unfitness of the applicant, and of his not being in *bona fide* occupation of the premises, and that the Queen's Bench Division upheld this decision; can he explain why the police did not officially object to the application, as the sergeant of the district, when called by the objector, swore that the premises were incapable of proper police supervision, and deposed to the unfitness and inconvenience of the premises; and in view of the fact that Mr. Leslie is again applying for a licence on 26th March, will instructions be given to the police to officially oppose the granting of the licence.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): Before my right hon. friend answers the question will he let me ask if this Mr. Leslie is carrying on business as a publican although he was refused a licence by the licensing authorities? If so, will he tell the House under what authority he is doing so.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND (Mr Atkinson, Londonderry, N.): At the request of my right hon. friend I will reply to this question. The facts stated in the first paragraph are substantially correct. The house referred to has been licensed and managed for many years by a tenant of Lord Dartrey. On the death of this tenant Mr. Leslie, on behalf of his principal, paid the executors of the deceased tenant a sum of £400 for their interest in the premises and applied for a transfer of the licence to himself until he could procure another tenant. The alleged unfitness in the premises consisted in its distance from the police barrack, though that was the same as it had been for many years during the lifetime of the deceased publican. And the alleged unfitness of the applicant, who was a most respectable gentleman, consisted in the fact that he would not reside on the premises and could not personally superintend the business. These were technical legal questions not justifying police intervention. The reply to the last paragraph is in the negative. With regard to the supplementary question, Mr. Leslie would have been required to serve notice of twenty-one days before 12th January, and as the decision of the Court of the Queen's Bench was not given until the 21st December, time did not permit of the notice being given for hearing in January. Application for the new licence will be made on 26th March, and pending that the Excise authorities have granted a permit to Mr. Leslie to carry on the business.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: I have in my hand a letter from the Excise authorities, in which they say they are acting on the recommendation of the Irish Government. Am I to understand that the Irish Government claim a right in licensing matters to override the decisions of the licensing authority confirmed by the Court of the Queen's Bench in cases in which the applicant is the agent of the Irish landlord?

MR. ATKINSON: No, Sir. The Irish Government claim no such authority, and it was hardly necessary for the hon. Gentleman to ask the question or for me answer it. The hon. Member is entirely in error in supposing that the Irish Executive have given any directions in the matter.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: I have the authority of the Excise people for saying that they have.

MR. CAINE: Is or is not Mr. Leslie keeping a shebeen?

MR. ATKINSON: If the hon. Member takes any pleasure in calling it that, he is.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: Is there any statute enabling the Excise authorities to grant licences which have been refused both by the local Bench and the Court of Appeal?

MR. ATKINSON: It is not my duty to answer that.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: For the information of the Chancellor of the Exchequer I give notice that on the Inland Revenue Vote I shall call attention to this illegal action of the Excise authorities.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Is it not the duty of the Attorney General to prosecute in these cases of illegality?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT—ROAD LENGTH LIMITS.

MR. KENDAL O'BRIEN (Tipperary, Mid): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland whether the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, or any of the Orders in Council made in connection therewith limit the length of a road which may be formulated in one proposal by a district council and accepted by a county council; and, if so, can he state the provisions of the Act, or the Order which so limits the length of the road.

MR. ATKINSON: I am not aware of any provision in the Act or Orders providing specifically for the length of a road, in reference to which a proposal may be formulated.

IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT RULES AND ORDERS.

MR. KENNEDY (Westmeath, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland whether he is aware that, under the Local Government Board Order of 9th May, 1899, a petition to the judge of assize, pursuant to Section 10 (3) of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, to be heard at the spring assizes cannot be lodged sooner than the 15th February, while under the rules of court, dated 13th May, 1899, the clerk of the Crown and peace cannot enter a petition for hearing at spring assizes held on 1st March unless lodged by 13th February; and whether he can state who is responsible for this blunder in drafting, and what steps will be taken to give effect to the Act of Parliament dealing with this matter.

MR. ATKINSON: There is a possibility of the hitch pointed out in the question in cases where the spring assizes open on the 1st March, but I am not aware that any inconvenience has as yet been experienced. The orders were made by the Local Government Board, the rules by the judges of the Superior Court. I have already taken steps to have the matter reconsidered by the authorities.

Mr. KENNEDY: Did not a case of the kind actually occur at the recent assizes at Trim?

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! The question on the Paper has been fully answered.

Mr. KENNEDY: Then I give notice that I will put another down.

OCCUPIERS OF LABOURERS' COTTAGES AND MEMBERSHIP OF PUBLIC BOARDS.

Mr. O'MARA: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland whether, considering the decision of the King's Bench with reference to occupiers of labourers' cottages being entitled to sit on public boards, steps will be taken to reinstate Johnson Magee, an occupier of a labourer's cottage, who was returned by a majority for Jerpoint electoral division, Thomastown Union, and who was compelled to resign in consequence of a letter from the Local Government Board.

Mr. ATKINSON: The person mentioned has resigned. His resignation has, I believe, been accepted. There is no power to reinstate him in his office.

IRISH RAILWAY RATES—KILLARNEY'S COMPLAINT.

Mr. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware of the inequality in railway charges on goods on the Great Southern and Western (of Ireland) Railway as far as the town of Killarney is concerned; whether he is aware that goods are conveyed by the said company from Dublin and Cork and intermediate stations to Tralee at a lower rate than to Killarney, though Tralee is twenty miles further from the points indicated; and whether, seeing that there is a through cross-channel rate to most other towns with which the said railway is connected, entitling traders to a free delivery of goods at their business premises, while a charge is made for cartage from the railway station to the place of business of the consignee at Killarney; and, having regard to the injury done to trade in Killarney by these arrangements, he will make inquiries into the matter, and take steps to have such railway charges arranged on an equitable basis.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: I understand the hon. Member is not correct in his facts, and I refer him to Section 38 of the Great Southern and Western, &c., Act, 1900. I am also informed that none of the company's goods rates with Killarney include the service of delivery, and that it is not performed by the company who have no carting agent there.

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE IRISH AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

Mr. COGHILL: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Vice-President of the Irish Agricultural Department is to continue without a seat in this House?

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.): I hope not.

CIVIL LIST COMMITTEE—PUBLICATION OF CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General, with reference to the publication of the confidential draft of the Civil List in a newspaper, if he will institute an inquiry into the circumstances with the view of determining whether the persons concerned have brought themselves within the penal provisions of Sections 2 and 3 of the Official Secrets Act, 1889, relating to the improper disclosure of official documents or information.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs): Any inquiry into the circumstances of the publication referred to in the question could be much more effectively conducted by the Committee itself. If any facts should be brought to my notice bearing on the question of prosecution they will be carefully considered, but it hardly falls within the province of the Director of Public Prosecutions in the first instance to initiate an inquiry into the circumstances attending the publication of a confidential document submitted to a Committee of this House.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: I should like, arising out of this, to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer a question.

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member cannot ask a question of another Minister arising out of that question.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: Then I will ask you, Sir, a question on the point of order. In reference to the Report which the Chancellor of the Exchequer presented, I beg to ask whether you will take into consideration the fact that this confidential document of the Civil List Committee was published not only in *The Times*, but, simultaneously, in the *Birmingham Daily Post*; and whether in any action that may be taken on the matter you, Sir, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer will take into consideration the fact that if *The Times* is to blame, the *Birmingham Daily Post* is equally to blame.

*Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a question of order. The hon. Member well knows that questions are not to be addressed to the Chair except on questions of order or procedure as they arise.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: Has not an unusual course been taken by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in this case, in referring the matter to the Chair and not to the House? On the point of order may I ask, you, Sir, whether we are not entitled at some stage to put the question why only one paper has been referred to, and why the *Birmingham Daily Post* has not been referred to?

*Mr. SPEAKER: Not to me.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: Then I put the question to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

*Sir M. HICKS BEACH: The only paper to which our attention was called, or of which I had any knowledge at all, was *The Times.*

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: May I ask whether, now the right hon. Gentleman's attention has been called to the fact that this confidential document was simultaneously published in the *Birmingham Daily Post* as well as *The Times*, he will also include the *Birmingham Daily Post* in his Report?

*Sir M. HICKS BEACH: The Report is out of my hands; it is the Report of the Committee of the House.

Mr. KENNEDY: Will the right hon. Gentleman issue a Supplementary Report?

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: I must ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, under these circumstances, the Report having passed out of his hands, he will be good enough to call the attention of his Committee to the fact that the *Birmingham Daily Post* is in exactly the same position as *The Times* in this matter?

*Sir M. HICKS BEACH: If I may express my own opinion, it is that I am sure that if the Committee had known this they would have named the *Birmingham Daily Post* in their Report.

Mr. TENNANT: Will the right hon. Gentleman bring it before the Committee?

*Sir M. HICKS BEACH: It is practically covered.

Mr. FLAVIN: Are they aware that the *Birmingham Daily Post* is equally guilty with *The Times*?

Mr. TATTON EGERTON (Cheshire, Knutsford): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, after the improper publication of private and secret Papers, made in a certain daily journal on Thursday, 14th March, he will bring in any Standing Order to forbid the entrance into the precincts of the House of any official or reporter of any journal who publishes such private or secret Papers.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: My hon. friend is probably aware of what took place in the Committee, and of the Report which the Committee made, which has been laid before the House by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I hope that that will give him the answer he seeks.

PARLIAMENTARY RETURNS.

Mr. KIMBER (Wandsworth): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will grant the Return, entitled Parliamentary Constituencies (Elections, etc.) (No. 2), which stands on to-day's Paper,† or consent to the addition of the particulars asked for to the Return under this title already ordered.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think my hon. friend will get the information he wants from a Return about to be presented by the Home Office on the motion of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Forest of Dean.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

MR. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, to expedite public business, he will consider the advisability of having all replies to questions addressed to Ministers by hon. Members printed and circulated among Members at the commencement of business.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: If the hon. Gentleman means that any part of the questions answered across the floor of the House and their replies should be published first, I think it would only increase instead of diminishing the congestion of business. If, on the other hand, he means that the House is to be content with printed answers to the questions, it appears to me that, however desirable that might be from some points of view, it would deprive the House of the indulgence in a practice which it appears to enjoy.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Will the right hon. Gentleman take any steps to prevent the same question being asked over and over again, season after season, as has been the case this session ?

[No answer was returned.]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can state on what date it is proposed to move Mr. Speaker out of the Chair for the purpose of discussing the Navy Estimates.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I hope, on Monday next.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in the event of financial exigencies necessitating Votes A and 1, Army Estimates, being obtained before the close of next Tuesday's sitting, he can give an assurance that before any other Votes are submitted in Committee an opportunity will be afforded to the House of discussing the nature of the work to be done by the British Army under the conditions of maritime supremacy.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The question of my hon. and gallant friend brings up in a very clear way the condition in which we are in regard to getting Mr. Speaker out of the Chair on the Army Estimates. I perfectly understand that the House is not satisfied with the amount of discussion which has taken place, either on the question of Mr. Speaker leaving the Chair or on Votes A and 1. But it is really necessary in the general interests that all those questions should be decided to-day, and if that is not possible I am afraid we ought to sit to-morrow. [Nationalist cries of "Certainly, and on Sunday too."] I think we should avoid that alternative if we can. [Nationalist cries of "No."] Even to oblige hon. Gentlemen opposite, we should, I think, avoid if we can the general inconvenience to other hon. Gentlemen of a Saturday sitting.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Surely they can sit in the interests of their own country !

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: There is a stronger argument. I do not think that even with a Saturday sitting there could be adequate discussion of the very important military questions raised by these Votes. More than one suggestion has been made for getting over the difficulty. The hon. Member for Mid Lanark suggests the ingenious plan of withdrawing Votes A and 1 and getting the necessary amount of money by a Vote on Account for the Army. No doubt something might be said for that, but it is a plan, I remember, that Mr. Gladstone strongly objected to in 1883 or 1884, and it has the disadvantage that the continuation of the discussion on my right hon. friend's Army scheme would go on on the question of Mr. Speaker leaving the Chair. I do not think that is a convenient method, because my right hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition and the right hon. Member for West Monmouthshire have spoken on that. So, too, have I. No power to reply is left to any of those Gentlemen. I think the whole question should be raised again in a substantive form, and in a manner which would neither trench on the twenty-three days of Supply, nor exclude so important a contributor to the debate as my right hon. friend who is responsible for the scheme, and who is necessarily and naturally its chief defender. I would therefore ask my right hon. friends who are properly anxious to speak upon the question to defer dealing with it until a substantive resolution is brought before the House after Easter embodying the main outlines of the proposals, and therefore giving the House a full opportunity of raising any question they like upon it. That would, I think, be far more convenient, and at the same time meet the wishes of everybody. It would enable the necessary business of Supply to be concluded, and it would not involve any sacrifice of the ordinary discussion in Supply, which, limited as it is by the twenty-three days rule, is rather intended for the ordinary criticism of Government administration than for the discussion of any great constructive scheme. Having tried to meet the wishes of the House, I trust the House will meet the Government by allowing the Speaker to leave the Chair, and giving them Votes A and 1 in the course of this evening.

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† The following is the Return referred to:—"'Parliamentary Constituencies, Electors, etc. (No. 2).—Return of (1) the average number of Electors and of population respectively represented by the 670 Members of this House, and the highest and lowest represented by one Member; (2) the number and names of the Constituencies having more than double that average number, and of those having less than half of that average number: (3) the number of Members in this House represented by Constituencies having less than the average number; (4) the number of Members returned by the one-half of the total of the Electors of the United Kingdom whose electorates are lower than the rest, and the number of Members returned by the other half; and (5) the same particulars as regards each of the four parts of the United Kingdom, viz., England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland."

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): Will the Government agree that no steps shall be taken to put into effect any of the proposals of the War Secretary until the House has had the opportunity of debating them?

SIR JOHN BRUNNER: Will the right hon. Gentleman undertake that in order to afford an opportunity of discussing this subject private Members shall not be deprived of their rights after Easter?

CAPTAIN NORTON: Will the right hon. Gentleman give an undertaking that the debate shall come on early after Easter, and not be delayed until July or August?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I shall bring on the resolution as soon as I can after Easter, but I cannot give any pledge until I have consulted the Chancellor of the Exchequer as to the demand he is likely to make on the House with regard to financial business. I hope the House will meet me in a reasonable spirit. We must have the men for the South African War, quite apart from the general Army scheme. No progress of any material kind can or will be made in carrying out that part of the scheme which is concerned with the organisation of army corps before the resolution is brought forward.

SIR JOHN BRUNNER: And you will not take Wednesdays?

[No answer was returned.]

MR. CHAPLIN: We understand that it is the intention of the Government to afford this opportunity as early as possible after Easter, consistently with other necessary business.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: That is my object, but I must not be too closely bound down.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): Am I right in understanding that although the right hon. Gentleman does not bind himself not to take steps in regard to military exigencies under the Vote, yet he will not do anything to bring the new scheme into execution beyond what is required by military exigencies? Will his resolution be of such a nature, too, as to enable the whole scheme to be amply discussed and no part kept back on the ground that it has already been before the House?

*MR. A. J. BALFOUR: My desire will be that the resolution shall cover the whole ground. With regard to the organisation of the army corps, no progress of a material kind can, or will, be made in carrying out that part of the scheme.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): Do I understand the right hon. Gentleman that his resolution will bear in mind the influence of our sea-power in determining the work to be done by the Army: Shall we be able to discuss that?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: That, I imagine, will be for the Speaker to determine. I do not propose to mention maritime power in my resolution, but still it seems to me that the organisation of the land Army cannot be wholly separated from the question of maritime power.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB: But will the resolution be so framed as to enable us to discuss these broader features?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not know if, on the motion that Mr. Speaker leave the Chair, the hon. and gallant Member could discuss Naval details, but he might raise the debate perhaps on an Amendment to my resolution.

COLONEL WELBY (Taunton): Will it be permissible to put down an Amendment to the resolution so as to raise a definite issue—the same as is done on Vote A?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I should think so.

MR. BRYCE: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can make any statement with regard to the order in which he proposes to take financial business next week.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: My present intention is to take the Navy Estimates first on Monday and probably to proceed with them; I do not know what the House feels about that. Then we shall take the Civil Service Supplementary Estimates.

*MR. BLAKE (Longford, S.): Are we to understand that the motion that the Speaker do leave the Chair on the Civil Service Estimates will not be taken until after Easter?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Perhaps the hon. Member will put a question to me upon that point next week. I take it there will be no difficulty in getting through Votes A and 1 and the motion that the Speaker leave the Chair to-night, in which case I will not put the House to the trouble of discussing whether we shall sit to-morrow.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: The Irish Members are quite prepared to sit on Saturday, but if they assent to the arrangement suggested will the right hon. Gentleman be prepared to give special facilities for the discussion of Irish subjects?

MR. WEIR: If it should be necessary to sit to-morrow will the right hon. Gentleman arrange for a continuous sitting from now till 11 p.m. on Saturday, so as to avoid having to be here on Sunday?

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: As the Navy Estimates have only very recently been laid before the House, cannot the discussion of them be taken later than Monday?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I shall be quite ready to adjourn the discussion after the statement of my hon. friend in moving the Navy Estimates, and then take the Civil Service Supplementary Estimates. As I am afraid I am not fortunate enough to carry hon. Gentlemen opposite with me I shall have to make a motion before the commencement of public business.

*MR. BLAKE: If the right hon. Gentleman will give us some solid assurance that the motion that the Speaker leave the Chair on the Civil Service Estimates will not be proceeded with before Easter, I think we might reasonably assent to the arrangement proposed.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am most anxious not to burke the discussion in which the hon. Gentleman is interested. I assume he does not want it to come on immediately after Easter?

*MR. BLAKE: Not the first day or two.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Then on the understanding that we get Mr. Speaker out of the Chair to-night, and also Votes A and 1, I will undertake not to move that the Speaker leave the Chair on the Civil Service Estimates until after Easter.

LESLIE v. THE JUSTICES OF MONAGHAN.

[ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE.]

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (South Tyrone) rose in his place and asked leave to move the Adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, "the over-riding of the law as declared by the Irish King's Bench by the authorities of Dublin Castle in the case of Leslie *v.* The Justices of Monaghan"; but the pleasure of the House not having been signified, MR. SPEAKER called on those Members who supported the motion to rise in their places, and not less than forty Members having accordingly risen—

*MR. T. W. RUSSELL said the facts in this case were so simple and so plain as to appeal to the judgment of the House against the action of the authorities of Dublin Castle. According to law, the annual licensing sessions were held at Monaghan in the month of October last. Those sessions were the only sessions at which new licences could be legally granted, and Mr. Leslie, the agent to Lord Dartrey, applied for the transfer of a licence previously held by a Mr. Gardiner. The application, which was heard by the lawfully constituted licensing authority, the justices of Monaghan, was opposed, not by the police, but by the clergy and residents of the neighbourhood. The magistrates came to the conclusion that the premises were unsuitable and the applicant unfit, and those were two out of the three legal objections which could be urged in such cases. The transfer was accordingly refused. The applicant appealed to the Court of King's Bench, when, before a full court of four judges, the decision of the magistrates was upheld. In the ordinary course, Mr Leslie would have had to close his premises, as the licence expired on the 11th October. But Ireland is an extraordinary country. Things occurred there which could take place in no other country. Notwithstanding the legal decisions, Mr. Leslie had been selling liquor every day since, and the police refused to prosecute. The Attorney General for Ireland had stated that Leslie paid the heirs of the previous holder £400 for the licence, that the place had always been conducted as a public-house, and that no objection on the ground of unfitness had been taken. But the heirs of the previous holder were offered £600, and the Earl of Dartrey's agent stopped the sale by means that everyone from Ireland understood, namely, by the right of pre-emption. So the heirs were first done out of £200, and then this man applied for a licence himself. Who authorised this man to break the law? As the transfer had been refused, a new licence would have to be applied for, and that could not be done until next October, although possibly exceptional circumstances might be pleaded. The people of the neighbourhood had tried to find out who was responsible for the evasion of the law. The police knew nothing; they were ordered not to prosecute—not to give Lord Dartrey's agent any annoyance. The magistrates knew nothing, except that their decision had been over-ruled by some authority which had no legal warrant for its action. Dublin Castle referred the inquirers to the Excise authorities, from whom the following letter, dated 6th February, was received—

> "I have laid before the Board of Inland Revenue your letter of the 31st ult., respecting the permission granted to Mr. H. T. Leslie to carry on business pending his application to the quarter sessions, to be held on 26th March next. In reply thereto, the Board direct me to state that in allowing Mr. Leslie to sell they are acting upon a recommendation of the Irish Government at Dublin Castle, to whom they must respectfully refer you for any information you may require on the subject."

He (the speaker) had applied to the representatives of Dublin Castle in the House of Commons, and had been sent back to the Excise. It was a short story, but it illustrated how things were done in Ireland. What he wanted to know from the right hon. Gentleman the Attorney General was, even supposing Dublin Castle had the power to over-ride the licensing authorities, why was that power exercised in this case? Why was that done for Lord Dartrey's agent which would not be done for any humble applicant in County Dublin or anywhere else? This was a most unwarranted interference on the part of Dublin Castle with the law of the land, and he hoped that the Attorney General, if he could not explain this case, would at all events take great care that the action was not repeated during his time at Dublin Castle.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.), in seconding the motion for adjournment, said that in all the long history of scandal connected with Irish administration—although it was seldom concerned with licensing matters—he had never known so gross, so illegal, so shocking a case. What was the offence tolerated and winked at by Dublin Castle? In a county where the magistrates were practically chosen by Lord Rossmore, the head of the Orange Lodge in Ireland, they were not likely to be a bench favourable to the people, but, in this case, Lord Rossmore's Orange magistrates had actually refused to permit the transfer on the ground of the unfitness not only of the premises but also of the applicant. The case was decided practically on the authority of the decision in Sharpe *v.* Wakefield, the case upon which the whole of the English licensing law depended. The Attorney General smiled, but he laughed best who laughed last. The magistrates were entitled to take into account the distance of the house from the police barracks. He did not know who the magistrates were, but apparently they had the concurrence of the religious bodies of all denominations—a very unusual state of things in Ireland. The Earl of Dartrey's agent appealed last October or November, but for the four months that had elapsed since then, although the place had been as much without a licence as any shebeen or brothel, he had been allowed day after day to commit this breach of the law. For selling a single glass of whisky without a licence, a man was liable to a penalty of £50 or imprisonment, and the penalty was increased for subsequent offences. Why was not this man prosecuted? Why was Lord Dartrey's agent allowed to do these things? In a case of hardship it could be understood if the Government said they would not prosecute, but here there had been a legal decision. By what authority had Dublin Castle overruled the decision of the judges? In the times of James II. the suspensory power was considered to be revolutionary, and was formally condemned by the House of Commons. The reason this had happened was that a new sessions met on the 25th of this month, and this man had, he supposed, been allowed to remain unprosecuted because Lord Rossmore's friends would pack the bench for him in a fortnight's time and the Attorney General, being accustomed to the act of jury-packing, wanted to encourage the transaction. Who was Mr. Leslie? He was a member of one of the Carlton Clubs, he was a gentleman from Somersetshire, was formerly agent to King-Harman, and had been promoted to be agent to the Earl of Dartrey. If an ordinary publican sold a tent of liquor after licensed hours, he was prosecuted. Why was the law not enforced in the case of a man in the position of Lord Dartrey's agent, who had broken the law for four months? If any Irish Nationalist, getting up a ball on St. Patrick's night, applied for an extension of time, he would be hooted by the police and the authorities. If any Nationalist had been found committing the smallest illegality the authorities would be only too ready to pounce upon him. Was it the law of the country that if you were Lord Dartrey's agent you could do as you liked, while if you were a poor man the law would be immediately enforced against you? The House might say this case was unworthy of their attention, but it gave them an admirable picture of what was going on in every town in Ireland. There was no law for the Nationalists and any amount of license for the Conservatives. What were the circumstances of the case under which Mr. Leslie was granted this unusual indulgence? There was a law by which the landlords under the Land Act could pre-empt and obtain possession of their neighbours' goods without paying for them. In this case the price of the house in the open market was £600, and the landlord grabbed it for £400, and the Government, which professed to be so anxious to uphold the rights of property, wanted to enable this man illegally to remain in possession of his ill-gotten gains. He did not know why the Government poked their noses into these cases. Why should the Government go out of their way to assist this agent? Had they not enough agents and landlords on hand, for the whole work of Dublin Castle was simply carrying on the business of landlordism? Why should the Government bring down upon themselves this additional hornet's nest? After the Government had taken up this case simply because the man concerned was the agent of a noble Earl, and allowed it to go forth that they would tolerate illegality of this kind, he believed that even the Protestants in Ireland would now come to the conclusion which the Nationalists had long ago arrived at that there was in Ireland one law for the rich and another for the poor.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Mr. T. W. Russell.*)

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): I do not think that the real facts of the case leave any room for the indignation shown by the two hon. Members who have spoken. These are shortly the facts in regard to the action of the Government, so far as they have taken any action at all in the matter. I do not intend to enter into the merits of this dispute between the agent to Lord Dartrey and the former tenant of his house. I may say that the facts in possession of the Government do not tally with those mentioned by my hon. friend upon this question. According to the facts in possession of the Government I understand that for some years the tenant carried on business as a publican in this house, the tenant himself having got an assignment from the preceding tenant, who had also carried on business for several years, and who died leaving a direction to his executors to sell and dispose of his interest in the house. The landlord—Lord Dartrey—exercised the right of pre-emption when the tenant died. According to his right of pre-emption he was entitled to go into possession, but although Lord Dartrey was absolutely entitled to walk in for £120 he voluntarily increased the purchase money to £400. As far as I can find out there is no evidence that the sum of £600 is a fair valuation, but the fact remains that Lord Dartrey voluntarily increased the sum from £120 to £400. Of course the licence was the thing of real value, for the house was worth nothing without it.

AN HON. MEMBER: What about the farm?

MR. ATKINSON: There was only a small bit of land attached, and its value was comparatively nothing, for the real value was in the licensed house. The question decided by the Court was that in fixing the right of pre-emption they could not take into consideration the value of the licence, and Lord Dartrey thought it such a very unfair thing to the executors to deprive them of what was really the only thing of value that he refused to take advantage of the pre-emption price, and he increased it by the sum of £280.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Yes, in order to get the transfer.

MR. ATKINSON: I do not mean at all to decide or attempt to decide who was right or wrong upon that contract. Lord Dartrey's agent applied to the October Licensing Sessions for a transfer of the licence to himself. The case came before the magistrates, and they decided by a majority of eighteen votes to fifteen that the premises were unfit and that the applicant was an unfit tenant. My hon. and learned friend entirely mistook my smile just now. I did not at all intend to suggest that it was not perfectly competent for the magistrates to take those facts into consideration. They decided that the premises were unfit and it was decided also that the applicant was unfit, although no objection was taken to his character. The objection taken to him was that he did not intend to carry on the business himself, and therefore the magistrates decided—rightly enough in my opinion—that he was an unfit person to hold the licence. That occurred at the October Sessions. I understand that the only objector to the transfer was one of Lord Dartrey's tenants who was under notice to quit, and who shortly afterwards surrendered his farm.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: Is it not customary to take an inhabitant of the parish as a legal objector?

MR. ATKINSON: That is the custom, but what I have stated about this man I am informed is correct. Under these circumstances, the magistrates having decided that they would not transfer the licence, Mr. Leslie determined upon having that decision brought up by a writ of *certiorari*. I understand that it is quite a common thing for the Excise authorities to grant licences pending litigation of that character, in order to preservè the rights which would be lost otherwise. He applied to the Excise to be permitted to sell during the interval, and I understand that such a thing is rightly done almost every day, because it would be a most monstrous thing in an application for the transfer of the licence in which the magistrates decided wrongly that permission to sell in the interval should be refused, because by the non-sale in the interval the valuable interest in the licence would be forfeited. The hon. Member admits that there may be circumstances which justify the Excise authorities granting a licence to sell pending the decision of another Court. The application was made at the October Sessions, and forthwith made to remove the case to the Queen's Bench, and the decision of the Queen's Bench was not given until the 21st of December. On the 31st of December the Court of Queen's Bench delivered judgment, upholding the decision of the magistrates. I understand that neither of my hon. friends objects to the procedure of the Excise authority in granting a licence up to the time that the Queen's Bench delivered judgment and the application for a writ of *certiorari* because that must be on the principle that the civil rights must be protected while the case is *sub judice*.

MR. T. M. HEALY: There is no instrument called a licence, for it is a mere indulgence.

MR. ATKINSON: But this thing is constantly done and rightly done, and that being so Mr. Leslie determined to apply for a new licence. The ordinary time to apply for a new licence would be the 21st of January.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: No, no.

MR. ATKINSON: He could have applied at the January Sessions for a licence to trade on, and he was advised that he had a right to do it.

MR. T. M. HEALY: There is no such law, and this only applies in the case of a transfer.

MR. ATKINSON: I am not pledging myself to the propriety or impropriety of these proceedings, but I am telling the House what he was advised, and he was told that this was the proper course for him to take. As three weeks notice of his application was necessary, he was too late for the January sessions, because he did not know that he had been unsuccessful in the Queen's Bench until the 21st of December, and the interval between that date and the January sessions did not allow an interval of twenty-one days to elapse. By that misadventure owing to the delay in the Court of Queen's Bench delivering judgment on the writ of *certiorari* Mr. Leslie was deprived of making his application at the January sessions.

MR. T. M. HEALY: What fool advised him?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member must not use such language.

MR. ATKINSON: Inasmuch as he could not proceed at the January sessions owing to the fact that he could not give three weeks notice, the first sessions that he could apply for the granting of an interim certificate for a new licence was the March sessions. That was entirely due to the fact that the Court of Queen's Bench delayed the delivering of their judgment until late in December. Under these circumstances Mr. Leslie applied to the Excise authorities to permit him to continue to sell until the March sessions so that his rights might not be prejudiced, and for granting this permission the Irish Government is accused of exercising the prerogatives of James II. That is all the share which the Irish Government took in this matter. They received a communication from the Excise authorities setting out these facts and asking the Government if they had any objection to granting this permission to sell, inasmuch as Mr. Leslie had already paid for the licence. The reply given was that the Government had no objection to permitting him to continue to trade up to the 25th of March.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: But is that usual?

MR. ATKINSON: Yes, I understand that it is usual. This permission was granted because otherwise valuable rights would have been destroyed, and the licence was granted to sell until the owner had an opportunity of finally deciding the matter. We have done nothing except giving this man permission to sell up to the 25th of March, when his application at the licensing sessions will be finally adjudicated upon either one way or the other. That is the ordinary practice. It was not done by the authority or direction of the Executive at all.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Will the right hon. the learned Gentleman say how Mr. Leslie would have been prejudiced if he had not obtained protection when he made application for the new licence? Is it not the fact that he was allowed to carry on the public-house business for four months without a licence?

MR. ATKINSON: The decision was given by the Queen's Bench on the 21st December, and it was only then that the licence was really lost. Whether Mr. Leslie took the right course or not I cannot say; but at all events he made application to the Excise authorities, who asked the Executive Government if they might grant permission, and the Executive said they had no objection.

*MR. HEMPHILL (Tyrone, North): I have had some experience of the licensing system in Ireland, but I confess I have never heard of anything like the present state of affairs arising before. From the statement of the Attorney General, of course he was in no way responsible in this matter. Had it come before him originally, I am quite sure the present state of affairs would never have come into existence. I am not going into the merits or the motives of Mr. Leslie, the agent of Lord Dartrey, but there is the undoubted fact stated by the hon. Member for South Tyrone, not controverted by the Attorney General, that the personal representative of the deceased publican was offered £600 for the interest in the public-house, and it is admitted that the value of the farm, apart from the licence, had been fixed under the Land Act at £120. Of course, the real value of this farm, therefore, lay in the licence; the other was merely illusory. It is said Mr. Leslie was very generous in offering £400, but an outsider offered £600, so that Mr. Leslie got a very considerable bargain. The matter came before the quarter sessions, which were the licensing authorities in Ireland, in October. There was a large attendance of magistrates, and the matter was fully discussed. There are three legal grounds on which a licence can be transferred or can be granted in Ireland. The first is the fitness of the applicant; the second, the fitness of the house; and the third, the number of public-houses in the neighbourhood. The majority of the magistrates, by a majority of eighteen to fifteen, decided that the applicant was unfit, and why? Because he was a gentleman living in a very handsome place, the agent of Lord Dartrey, one of the great magnates of the county, who, in fact, could not from his position carry on the business on his own account and live on the premises. On that ground he was held to be unfit. But in addition to that the magistrates held that the premises were unfit, being such a distance from the police barracks, on which account the police could not exercise proper supervision over it. For years in Ireland that has been one of the grounds on which licences have been refused, because roadside public-houses, unless within reasonable reach of the police barracks, cannot be supervised, and the police cannot see that a house is properly conducted. At all events, in October the magistrates refused the licence. The house was then an unlicensed house. Nobody had a right to sell liquor until a new licence was granted by the adequate authority. A *certiorari* was moved for, and the case brought before the Court of Queen's Bench in Dublin, which

Court decided on 19th December that the magistrates were perfectly right. What then occurred? The Excise Office, in the teeth of the announcement of the magistrates in October, confirmed by the Queen's Bench, approached the Dublin Castle authorities, and Dublin Castle authorised that Office to do what the statute gave it no authority to do—namely, to give a temporary licence to Mr. Leslie until his application was made before the magistrates in the following March. Surely never has there been a more unwarrantable act countenanced by the Executive Government, even in Ireland. There is no authority for it in the statute. There is a power, in the interval between two quarter sessions, for a magistrate to give a certificate of character, so that an Excise officer may then give a permit to sell until the following quarter sessions; but here there was no licence. This house was no more licensed than any other farmhouse in the whole country. The Excise Office evidently felt that themselves, because they would not act on their own authority and consulted the authorities at Dublin Castle, who said in effect, "Why should we be stiff about this?" and told the Excise Office to do what they liked. That, of course, placed the magistrates in a very false position, and the whole of the licensing authorities throughout Ireland in a very false position. It is the more to be regretted, that at a time when public attention is so much excited in regard to this question of licensing, Dublin Castle should have given their high *imprimatur* to such an abuse of the law.

*MR. BLAKE (Longford, S.): This seems to me to be very a serious question not to be set aside by the very lame explanation of the right hon. the Attorney General. It is one thing to deal under a recognised custom or practice with the case of a licence that has been issued, and which is still current and subject to an arrangement for transfer. In that case the applicant asks for permission for a continuance of the right to sell until an appeal is made against the decision of the magistrate adverse to the transfer to a higher jurisdiction. But it does not at all follow that when a final adjudication has taken place and the question is once and for all and irrevocably settled, and when the licence is thus practically at an end, that a new man should be allowed to sell liquor without a licence because he intends to make application for a new licence at a future quarter sessions. What is going to be the result of the action of the authorities? Any person favoured by Dublin Castle who professes his intention of applying for a new licence may be put in possession of a house and be allowed to sell liquor on the ground that he means afterwards to apply to the magistrates for a licence, and thus the magistrates are practically constrained to confirm what had been done by the Dublin Castle authorities. The right hon. and learned Gentleman cannot escape, and Dublin Castle cannot escape by saying that all that they did was to say that they had no objection. Was this transaction lawful? And if it was not lawful what right had Dublin Castle to interfere? The right hon. Gentleman the Attorney General for Ireland has carefully abstained from staking his reputation upon the legality of this matter. He has not said it was lawful. He said that Mr. Leslie's advisers alleged it was so. But he has acknowledged that the facts were laid before Dublin Castle and that Dublin Castle authorised these transactions. So far as I understand the law, even as explained by the Attorney General, Dublin Castle had no right to authorise the Excise authorities to do what was an absolutely illegal act. And yet that was done by the Executive Government which is constantly putting itself forward as engaged constitutionally in upholding the sanctity of the law. That seems to me to be a most objectionable transaction, calculated to create much confusion unless it meets with the general reprobation of the House.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): There is one matter of fact about which the House ought to have more clear information than it at present possesses, and that is by what authority the Inland Revenue Board acted in this case.

MR. ATKINSON: Mr. Leslie applied on the 11th January to the Inland Revenue for permission to sell, and the

Inland Revenue wrote to the Under Secretary at the Castle, who replied that the Executive had no objections.

Mr. T. M. HEALY : To the breaking of the law !

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON : But that is not what the Board of Inland Revenue say. They say in reply to a communication addressed to them by Mr. Leslie's solicitor :—" The Board direct me to state that in allowing Mr. Leslie to sell they are acting upon the recommendation of the Irish Government" (not merely that they had no objections) "to whom they most respectfully refer you for any information you require." That seems to me to be absolutely inconsistent with the theory that Dublin Castle merely said that they had no objections, because that reply indicated that the Board of Inland Revenue refused to proceed on their own authority. Now, the Board of Inland Revenue is represented in this House by the Chancellor of the Exchequer who has been an interested spectator of this debate. I daresay the right hon. Gentleman has informed himself on the point, and he may be able to tell us what the Board of Inland Revenue did, and whether the responsibility lies with Dublin Castle, or whether the Board of Inland Revenue acted on its own responsibility because Dublin Castle did not object. There is another point. We ought to know something about the value of this permission given by the Excise authorities, and possibly the Chancellor of the Exchequer may be able to tell us that. Again, what right have the Excise authorities to give this permission ? Have they acted under a statute, and if so under what statute ? When we know the Act we can refer to it and determine, to some extent, the nature of their responsibility. This case is full of scandals, but there is one scandal not mentioned at all in which the Chancellor of the Exchequer is more interested than any one else. What is the root of all this mischief ? We have been told that the farm without a licence was worth £120, and with the licence £600. The difference between the two values is the property of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and if he received the duty at the proper date he must have the money. If the Chancellor of the Exchequer has informed himself on the question I am sure the House would be delighted to hear from him what would not be an *ex parte* statement—what part the Inland Revenue Board took in this matter, and whether they acted at the instigation of Dublin Castle.

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) : I will attempt to answer the specific question that has been put. As I understand it, the solicitor for Mr. Leslie wrote to the officer of the Excise on the 11th January stating that his client had intended to make application for a licence at the January session, but was entirely precluded from doing so owing to the decision of the Queen's Bench being so late. His client, however, intended to make the application for a new licence on the 26th March, and in view of that fact his client wished to know whether there was any objection to his carrying on the business till the 26th March. I appeal to hon. Members not to make too much of a technical point which I do not think is material to the ethics of the case. It is admitted that Mr. Leslie was legally entitled to conduct his business until the decision of the Supreme Court of Law, and that if that decision had been against him he could make application for a new licence. [An Hon. Member : That is not so.] At any rate, he thought so, and wrote to the Excise that it was no longer in his power to make application for the licence in January, but that he proposed to make application in March, and in the meantime asked the Excise to allow him to exercise the privilege of selling liquor until 26th March. The question has been asked whether the suggestion came from Dublin Castle or from the Inland Revenue to grant the permission. Now, the officer of Inland Revenue wrote to the Under Secretary at the Castle saying that he had been directed by the Board of Inland Revenue to forward a letter from the solicitor of Mr. Leslie craving an extension of the period of indulgence under the circumstances. Before taking any steps the Board would be glad to know whether his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant would have any objection to the proposal being acceded to ; but in the meantime the local officer of Excise had been instructed not to interfere with Mr. Leslie.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Read the answer.

MR. WYNDHAM: The answer was that there was no objection under the circumstances.

MR. T. M. HEALY: What circumstances?

MR. WYNDHAM: The circumstances set forth by Mr. Leslie's solicitor. The correspondence showed that the suggestion had not come from Dublin Castle.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.): This is a case which in a small way presents a perfect picture of the manner in which Ireland is governed. Both in and outside the House we have been asked to regard the government of Ireland as based upon law and order, and everything is supposed to be carried on in the purest manner; and if any attempt is made from the Irish benches at any time to cast disrespect on the judges of the land we are solemnly rebuked. But what has been the answer of the right hon. and learned Gentleman the Attorney General for Ireland to the charge made by the hon. Member who raised the debate? The substance of the answer, particularly when he wanted to point out the futility of the ground that this man Leslie was refused a transfer of a licence, was this: "I disagree with the judges of the Queen's Bench; they were not right in withholding, as they did, a licence for this man on the ground they did."

MR. ATKINSON: I said nothing of the sort. The only question decided by the Queen's Bench was whether the magistrates had acted within their powers in refusing the licence.

MR. CLANCY: Then why did the right hon. and learned Gentleman enter into this matter at all? What business was it of his whether this man should have been refused the licence at all? I assume that the law has been rightly decided, but the right hon. and learned Gentleman assumes in his answer that the law was not rightly decided. Imagine such a thing occurring in England! Supposing a bench of magistrates in England had decided that a man should not have a licence, imagine after such a decision the man daring to keep a public-house open! But in Ireland such a thing has happened, and the man has kept the public-house open in defiance of the law. Then he appealed to the Queen's Bench Court and was beaten there, but he still kept the public-house open. He allowed the time to elapse in which he could have applied for a new licence to the quarter sessions in January, but he still kept the public-house open, trusting to the influence of his friends in Dublin Castle, and of the Orange Lodge of which he was a member, to keep him safe from the consequences. The right hon. and learned Member entered into the merits of the question, and told of the generous treatment of Lord Dartrey to this man. But what business was it of the Attorney General to inquire into Lord Dartrey's conduct? The only question is, Was the law broken? I admit at once that the benevolent doctrine of the right hon. and learned Gentleman might commend itself to some people in certain circumstances. If they were to take into account special circumstances of great hardship, they might, if they possibly could, wink at some violation of the law. But what if they applied that doctrine all round? Every man who belongs to Ireland knows that it has been applied to Orangemen, Conservatives, Unionists, landlords, and people of the upper classes, but it has never been applied to any man of the National faith, or who occupy a humble position in life. This case gives another illustration of how Ireland is governed. The application for leave to keep the public-house open after the magistrates had refused the licence was made to the Board of Inland Revenue and to the authorities of the Castle. Would that be tolerated in England? What connection is there between the Board of Inland Revenue and the Castle? What business has the Board of Inland Revenue to communicate with the Castle? Have they not the law before them to carry out? Does the Inland Revenue Board ask the Castle what they would do in similar circumstances in the case of a Nationalist? Not at all. The very fact that the Inland Revenue Board wrote a private letter to the Castle—which would have never seen the light but for this debate—was a condemnation of the system of government carried on in Ireland, and must carry conviction to the mind of any honest man that that system of government is absolutely indefensible. At the same time the English could not govern Ireland in any other way by upholding the law impartially. By-and-bye, when they have conquered the Transvaal, they will be obliged to govern it, too, against the will of the people. At all events, Irishmen are entitled, meanwhile, to protest that the law, while it is the law, should be impartially administered, and I think the hon. Member for South Tyrone is to be congratulated in having brought this glaring case before the attention of Parliament.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.) said as this was a matter having a great deal to do with the Inland Revenue, it might not be out of place for him to say a few words. He had never heard of the case until he came into the House, and he did not profess to be so intimately acquainted with the law or its administration in cases of this kind as to be able to give a definite opinion. He thought all would admit that the mere continuance of non-interference with selling, pending the hearing of the appeal by the Queen's Bench, was proper. The Chief Secretary had shown that there might be a case of hardship even beyond that, on which it would be right that a similar non-interference should continue to be exercised on the part of the Inland Revenue. Whether this was one of those cases or not he could not say offhand, but he would certainly inquire. But he thought non-interference after a decision of the Court of Queen's Bench against the applicant should be very rarely used. If non-interference had been exercised not in accordance with the ordinary custom, which should apply equally to all, but in favour of Mr. Leslie, because he held a certain position, he most distinctly condemned the proceeding, and should certainly interfere to prevent its continuance.

*MR. WHITTAKER (Yorkshire, W.R., Spen Valley) said the point which he wished to emphasise was that the right hon. and learned Gentleman the Attorney General for Ireland in all he had said had studiously avoided giving his own opinion upon the case. He did not venture to assert that Mr. Leslie had a right to any such permission as had been exercised. He had no such right. There was no justification for any such application, and therefore it was erroneous for the right hon. Gentleman to say that the case would be finally adjudicated upon at the March sessions. The application to be made, then, was a new application altogether.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL said that, after the extremely satisfactory statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, he desired, with the leave of the House, to withdraw the motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

NEW BILLS.

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTORATE (SCOTLAND).

Bill to admit to the School Board electorate in Scotland all persons entitled to vote for the county council election, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Weir, Mr. Leveson-Gower, Mr. Nicol, Mr. Cathcart Wason, Mr. John Dewar, Mr. Bignold, Mr. Harmsworth, and Mr. Caldwell.

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTORATE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"To admit to the School Board electorate in Scotland all persons entitled to vote for the county council election," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 97.]

LIBEL.

Bill to amend the Law of Libel, ordered to be brought in by Sir John Willox, Sir Albert Rollit, Sir Charles Dilke, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, and Mr. Frederick Wilson.

LIBEL BILL.

"To amend the Law of Libel," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 5th June, and to be printed. [Bill 98.]

CROFTERS' HOLDINGS (SCOTLAND) ACT (1886) AMENDMENT.

Bill to amend the Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Act, 1886, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Weir, Mr. John Dewar, Mr. Leveson-Gower, Mr. Cathcart Wason, Mr. Bignold, Mr. Harmsworth, and Mr. Caldwell.

CROFTERS' HOLDINGS (SCOTLAND) ACT (1886) AMENDMENT BILL.

"To amend the Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Act, 1886," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 99.]

BURIAL GROUNDS (LOANS) (SCOTLAND).

Bill to extend the period of repayment of Loans for Burial Grounds in Scotland, ordered to be brought in by Captain Sinclair and Mr. John Morley.

BURIAL GROUNDS (LOANS) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"To extend the period of repayment of Loans for Burial Grounds in Scotland," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday, 22nd April, and to be printed. [Bill 100.]

SUPPLY (ARMY ESTIMATES).

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Main Question [14th March], "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair."—(*Mr. Brodrick.*)

Question again proposed.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): During the many years that I have been in the service of this House it has so happened that I have never, to use our ordinary slang, talked out a debate until that unfortunate event happened to me last night. And I can assure the House I should never have dreamed of intruding on them again on this occasion if it had not been for the admitted importance of the subject—admitted by the Government in their declarations on the particular matter before us at the present time. The debate which has just occurred has filled the minds of Members of the House more no doubt with the licensing laws of Ireland and of this country than with the great questions of Army reform which are presented to the House by the Government on this occasion. But I will do my best, even after that disturbing topic has been introduced and the able speeches to which we have listened, to recall the House to the consideration of that topic which we were discussing last night, of the greatest importance to the country. Last night I was attempting, as the hands of the clock reached twelve, to discuss the composition of the somewhat mythical army corps it was the main function of the scheme of the Secretary of State for War to create. It was whispered just now in this House that in another place the Government have expressed the surprise with which they have always heard the distinguished soldiers of this country push the claims of the Regular service as against the Volunteers. There is, of course, a little tendency upon the other side—there is a little tendency on the part of the Government, finding that Volunteers cost per head so very much less than the Regulars of this country do, finding that the Volunteers raise none of the recruiting difficulties which are raised by the peculiar position of this country as regards foreign service armies—there is a little tendency on the part of the Government, perhaps, to prefer to count heads of army corps which are composed of those forces than army corps composed of Regular forces. And I was trying to point out last night how far that was the case. Of the six army corps which the Government present to us three are mainly composed of Regular forces, the third having a certain number of Militia battalions in it; but the other three are almost entirely composed of Militia battalions and Volunteers, and we have not yet heard of the method by which the Volunteers are to be trained and brought up to the mark and placed in these army corps to make them other than mythical and imaginary.

There is a new development in connection with this matter which we shall watch, all of us who have been reformers in this House in the past, with the deepest interest, and that is the new provision of field guns for these army corps, guns for the Militia and also for the Volunteer organisations. The House may remember that in the past many of us have frequently brought before the House the fact that the Swiss are able to create a very formidable artillery upon a Militia basis, and we, many of us, have often expressed our opinion, and asked whether it was not possible for us here to do what the Swiss have done on a Militia system—create, at all events, a decent field artillery; but the Government go beyond this, but they do not tell us, however, how they intend to secure the training of the officers of the Volunteers. The money spent on the Volunteers especially, I think Volunteer officers of this House will admit, was lost and wasted last year in the special camps. I want to know how the Government are going to provide that this Volunteer field artillery is going to be a reality in these army corps which so largely depend upon it. When this matter has been previously debated in this House, while it has always been assumed that it might be possible to create a Militia field artillery, with regard to the Volunteer field artillery the most skilled officers have always said you must adopt a mixed system, a partially paid system, and you could not rely on mere Volunteers for skilled drivers of artillery.

All this leads one to ask once more, Are the Government, with regard to these three army corps they form, face to face with the facts; have they really thought out their scheme sufficiently to give anything like reality to the scheme they have presented to the House? The First Lord of the Treasury, speaking last night, said the matter of the training of these men was one of the most important things which we should have to consider in connection with this scheme, and I am glad to see upon the Papers which have been circulated this morning that the training of the Army, and, I imagine, the training of the Militia and Volunteers, will be more closely under the Commander-in-Chief in the future than it has been in the recent past. The House will remember that great attention has been called very recently by debates in another place to this subject of the Command-in-Chief, and many Members who are interested in the subject will remember the discussion we had here with regard to it in 1895 and 1896. At that time all of us pointed out that, while there might be ground for relieving the Commander-in-Chief of excessive centralisation, ground for relieving him notably of supply duties outside the proper duties of a Commander-in-Chief, everything which had to do with the preparation and training of the Army for war ought to be under his control. There has recently been a difference of opinion on this question, but I am inclined to think, judging from the words of a Memorandum of the Secretary of State for War, which is the last Paper laid before the House this morning, that that difficulty is likely to be solved in the immediate future. I believe that the Order, the unfortunate Order of 1895, will be modified in accordance with the words of the Secretary of State. The words to which I attach very great importance, and which, if anything can, will tend to make these army corps a reality, and to prevent in the future the existence of that disgraceful lack of training which has admittedly existed in the past are these: "I am disposed to think the Adjutant General should come directly under his control." We all know that the Commander-in-Chief has had the general control of the Intelligence Department and of mobilisation, but he has not had the control in the same degree of the training or discipline of the Army which has been directly under the control of the Adjutant General, himself directly under the control of the Secretary of State. I read these words of the Secretary of State as being a change of front upon this question, and as meaning that Lord Roberts will have in the future control not only over the Intelligence Department and mobilisation, but also over that portion of Headquarters which carries out the preparation and training of our Army for war.

Of course, this army corps system raises the whole question of what it is that the British Army is needed for—what it has to do. The

Secretary of State tells us that his two great objects are the provision of 115,000 men—I take his figure for foreign peace garrisons—for our normal peace garrisons abroad. I confess I think that the South African situation makes it highly probable that that figure of 115,000 will have to be increased in our future calculations. 115,000, taking his figure for the peace garrisons abroad, mainly in hot, unhealthy, and distant places, and the provision of a short-service Army to fill the Reserves for war. Now, on this subject of a short-service Army to fill the Reserves for war the Secretary of State appears to have tried to make out that the Army reformers are in some sense opposed to the short-service system. I should like to ask those Members of the House who have been misled by such suggestions thrown out from time to time to hear what was the unanimous agreement of the Service Members upon that subject last year. It was in these words, which were in the original Memorandum presented to them and which were unaltered by repeated discussion by the Board of some sixty or seventy experienced Members of the House—

> "The terms of service for those wishing to serve at home may be shortened to the minimum that will make efficient soldiers, in order to increase the Reserves to the utmost."

Those words have this further importance, that they are almost identical with the words which were used by the present Commander-in-Chief in 1884 and 1892. In 1884 and 1892 Lord Roberts used these words in regard to the present terms of service in the Army—

> "Eight years is too long for a man who proposes to return to civil life."

He also said—

> "Those who do not desire to make the Army a profession should have a short term of service and return to civil life and the Reserve."

Therefore, I think we might take it that the Service Members of the House and the present Commander-in-Chief are in agreement as to short terms of service for the troops that are to swell the ranks of the Reserves.

I want to ask the Secretary of State for War how he thought himself justified the other night in attacking, in connection with that subject, those who desired the existence of what he called a separate Army for India, which he attributed to myself. Surely he knows from all the debates that what we have advocated is shorter service here at home for the purpose of swelling the Reserves, and a somewhat lengthened service or term of enlistment for India. Not a separate Army for India, but that double system of enlistment that gives a man a chance of two forms of Army service, upon which all military reformers are now agreed, and upon which the present Commander-in-Chief expressed himself more strongly than any other man. The right hon. Gentleman went on to discuss this subject. He used these words—

> "We should have a less effective Army at home, and a more costly Army in India."

What right has he to make that statement? "A less effective Army at home" he is within his right in saying, because that is a matter within his own knowledge. He is bound by such authorities as Lord Haliburton and Sir Richard Knox. At all events, the matter is arguable, and it is within the discretion of the Secretary of State to make that statement; but as to the other objection in the statement—as to our having a more costly Army in India—I confess that I believe the House will agree with me that that matter is more within the knowledge of the Government of India than within the knowledge of the Secretary of State for War. What is the official opinion of the Government of India upon this subject? It has never varied for a day. The officially expressed opinion of the Government of India upon that subject is diametrically opposed to the opinion of the Secretary of State for War, and it is so recorded by the Royal Commission on Indian expenditure. That Commission reported that the witnesses of the Indian Government state that the short-service system imposes a heavy charge on the Indian revenue, "without compensating advantage"; that the "soldier sent out is too young, is more subject to illness, and not so efficient as an older man." That was recorded by the Commission as the opinion of the Government of

India, and I confess that I attach more importance to the official opinion of the Government of India than I do to that of the Secretary of State for War upon this matter. Lord Roberts was called as a witness upon the subject, and was somewhat severely cross-examined by members representing the War Office view upon the point. He was asked how he made out that it would be cheaper for India to have a somewhat longer system, as it would be cheaper for us at home to have a shorter system, and Lord Roberts could not be got beyond this point—he said it appeared to him that the oftener you sent people backwards and forwards the more expensive it would be. Lord Roberts would not budge from that position. The Secretary of State puts his view above that of Lord Roberts and the Indian authorities. He said in this House on the 8th February, 1897, that the opinion of Lord Roberts on that point is important, but that there are statistics which are more important still. Those statistics are the exact statistics which were put before the Commission, and which the Commission has shown India does not admit. The Secretary of State says it is useless to raise the soldiers' pay—anyhow with this system. It is useless to try and get these 115,000 or more men for foreign service by increased pay, because he says although the country would be "willing to pay heavily" it would be useless to raise the rate of pay unless we doubled it. We should not bring in any more men.

The right hon. Gentleman goes on to suggest that, if recruiting fails, the difficulty may be overcome by adopting compulsory service, as I understand, for home defence—compulsion for the Militia. But would that overcome the difficulty? He objects to what he calls a separate army for India, for foreign service, and he explained to the House why such an Army would be less effective than the present one. But upon this question of compulsion, how does he face the question that, *ipso facto*, the ballot for home service would create that separate army for foreign service which he so greatly deprecates? It appears to me that no man has ever contemplated as he has or breathed a word of applying the principle of compulsion to our foreign service, which is our heavier service, with its requirement of the 115,000 men that we have permanently to keep abroad. And so the difficulties of recruiting—instead of bringing elasticity into the conditions of service—remain. They are not affected in any way by this suggestion of compulsion for home service, which the Secretary for War has thrown out. But has he the authority of the Government in any way—even putting aside all other difficulties—has he the authority of the Cabinet, of which the right hon. Gentleman is a member, to make any suggestion with regard to compulsion at home? It is an unusual question, but it is a question which we are forced to ask when we have to consider it in connection with this subject. I listened to what the Leader of the House said last night. It was a sort of sigh. It appeared to me to indicate an opinion on his part altogether hostile to the argument of the Secretary for War.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford) was understood to ask the right hon. Gentleman for the passage in the speech of the Leader of the House.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: The sentence is not reported, but I will drop it. I will leave it, and will fall back on what is reported. That is the opinion of the Prime Minister, expressed on behalf of the Government last year in the House of Lords, in a debate which was followed by a division in which every single member of the Government in the House of Lords, following the Prime Minister's speech, voted against any form of compulsion for the Militia even here at home.

I have talked with some of my hon. and gallant friends opposite who think that the deficiencies of this scheme may some day be remedied by the adoption of compulsion here. [AN HON. MEMBER: No, no.] I said some of them. They think that the deficiencies of this scheme may some day be remedied by the adoption of compulsion here—which I do not admit, because it appears to me that compulsion for home service does not meet our needs or give us what we want, and that it does not in the least remove all the difficulties of which I have been speaking. And when I have told them that their Prime Minister and their Government are pledged against it they suggest—I dare hardly use the phrases they have used with regard to the antiquity of the Prime Minister's opinions on the subject—but they suggest that they are a survival of a very distant past. But the Prime Minister's words are very strong, and it is necessary that they should be brought before the House in this connection, as showing that this question of compulsion for home service, even if it would solve our home difficulties, which I do not think it would, must be treated as a real and grave difficulty. It was on February 20th last year that the Prime Minister spoke of the Militia Ballot Bill as a "Bill for effecting a purpose which no one has proved to be possible." He asked, "if anyone could be found to draw and to introduce" such a Bill, would it have "the slightest chance of passing without the most angry and acrimonious debate?" That is unimportant. But what is important is this. He argued that it "would add to the dangers of the country," and that it would be absolutely impossible "to remain at the Militia ballot." I believe that what was in his mind is what is in my mind, and what I have just been trying to impress on the House—that a Militia ballot would not meet our difficulties, and that it would be useless to have compulsory service unless you were prepared to apply it—and that was the conclusion of the Prime Minister's speech—to your Regular Army. And he said it must come to conscription for the Regular Army. That was the Prime Minister's opinion. I say if we are to have any suggestion of the question of compulsion as likely in the long run to overcome the emptiness of the present scheme, you are bound, I think, to put before the House a little more of what your meaning is, because mere compulsion for the Militia, the mere piling up of the Militia by the ballot, although it might do something for war, it does not seem to me that it would in the least diminish—I believe that in some senses it would increase—your difficulties as regards your foreign service and your normal drain of 120,000 or 150,000 men for unhealthy garrisons and India. You must remember that the way the matter would be put before the working classes of the country by their chosen leaders would be this. They would say this was a dangerous and unhealthy trade. This service in India in time of peace and this service in tropical garrisons is a thing which the country needs and for which it will have to pay. And the introduction of compulsion with the view of getting over that difficulty would be represented to them, and I think naturally, as the country being unwilling to pay the market price for the article it desires to obtain. And though that difficulty is great, and has, I believe, always been great, surely it has been enormously increased by what has recently occurred and the very high price you have had to pay in the recent war for recruits for service in distant places.

I do not know whether the Secretary of State has seen the speech which was made by the officer commanding the Imperial force which went out for the Australian Commonwealth celebrations. At every place where that force was landed this question of their pay as compared with that of the Colonials was very prominently brought forward. The character of the contrast was so greatly impressed on the minds of those on both sides—both on the Imperial force sent out and on the people among whom they were—that the commandant of that force thought it necessary to go out of his way to make his final speech on that question. He spoke of this great difference, indicating, not obscurely, his own opinion that the pay of the British Army would have to be raised. I am not attaching any importance to the opinion of the individual, but my point is that you have increased your difficulties by the high rate of pay which you have been forced recently to give, and that it is impossible to suppose that you will be able to supply by compulsion, directly or indirectly, this heavier part of our responsibility—the most difficult of all of them—to satisfy permanently in time of peace this drain of 120,000 or 150,000 men for places like India or South Africa. Therefore it is that I regret that we should have a somewhat vacant scheme, not providing in any way for the great drain which will come upon you at the conclusion of this war, but indicating the possibility of failure, without any increase of pay or any change in the conditions of recruiting, but suggesting that in two or three years time these difficulties might be met by compulsion, which, I believe, would never meet them in any way at all. The Reserves themselves have been counted by the right hon. Gentleman in his list of figures at 90,000 men. But the 90,000 men will not be there at the conclusion of this war. The number of the Reserves will have been greatly diminished by this war. Actuarial calculation will no doubt show what the number is expected to be, but it will not be 90,000, and you will also have the difficulties I alluded to just now in regard to the recruiting of the Indian Army and as to the Indian drafts. There is no suggestion in the scheme as to how the recruiting is to be met, how these difficulties are to be met, and surely before a suggestion was thrown out into the air that compulsion would some day meet these difficulties, which, I believe, it cannot solve, an attempt ought to have been made—an attempt which was fully expected by the country would have been made—to increase the pay of the soldiers, and to make those changes in recruiting which many of us believe would greatly affect the matter. The Government, however, go, I think, on the opposite tack. The Regulars are costly and the Volunteers are cheap. The Leader of the House boasted last night that there was no attempt to increase the number of the Regular forces of the country. He claimed credit last night for the Estimate on this ground. He said that the only increase in the present numbers is the 10,000 garrison veterans and the increased number of Yeomanry. I am very doubtful whether the 10,000 garrison veterans will be obtained. If they are obtained, of course they are a long-service force, and it will alter the whole balance of your system in connection with long service and make no contribution, but, on the contrary, make a detraction from the strength and value of your Reserves. The Government point to the same intention by the manner in which they bring the Volunteers into their Army corps, and I confess that their proceedings have led me to think that they attach undue importance to mere numbers as contrasted with the value of the men and their training.

Sir Charles Dilke.

I shall not dwell on this matter. We have debated it in the past, but I must mention in this connection the reinforcements which have been sent out to South Africa. The 30,000 men supplied to Lord Kitchener are untrained men. They remind me of nothing so much—I see some Scotch Members present—as the 30,000 untrained men by whom Scotland lost Dunbar. I believe that was the number, and the quality of their training was somewhat similar. The supply of these untrained men and the counting of Volunteers as Army corps simply because they give you so many numbers at a cheap rate, goes to show to my mind that the Government do not attach sufficient importance to the quality of the training and the value of the men, but merely to the importance of counting heads. You are sending out as rough-riders men who have never seen a horse, and paying them a high rate of pay as mounted men. You are paying men who have never seen a horse at a rate of pay almost double the pay of the sergeant-majors who have had the training of the Regular cavalry at Aldershot, and this appears to me to have greatly added to the difficulties of the Government in regard to this question of pay in the future. I confess that, by an earlier preparation of the reinforcements needed, I believe the scandal which occurred with regard to the pay of the Rhodesian field force would have been avoided. It has enormously added to the difficulties in the future. The Leader of the Opposition asked last night what those of us who attack the War Office on these questions exactly mean. He asked us to say whether it is the military heads of the Army, or the civilian clerks, or the politicians that we mean. I confess that I have never been a great believer in the value of the opinion with regard to the Army of Lord Haliburton and Sir E. Knox, but of the value of their services as regards work and of their ability there is no man in this House who has a higher opinion than myself, but, after all, they have been and the soldiers in the

War Office are, very largely the servants of the politicians. I think it is upon ourselves that we must take this blame. We must say that it is we here who have never given our minds sufficiently to the consideration of these questions, and that it is not the soldiers and not the civilian clerks, but we, all of us, who ought to bear the blame for this absence of preparation for war.

*MR. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham): My only reason for intervening in this debate is that I have had a certain amount of special experience which may possibly be of use in discussing some of the aspects of this great question. I may say, by way of preface, that I have served some thirteen years in the Army, during the last two and a half of which I was Military Attaché to the British Embassy in the United States. Consequently I have had a unique opportunity of studying the military problems and reorganisation proposals of the only army in the world which resembles ours in the slightest degree. In the United States they have the same national insistence on a voluntary system, the same Anglo-Saxon man in the street to reckon with, and the same inestimable blessing of a halfpenny press to remind Ministers that they are mortal and to instruct them in their duties. The United States have, moreover, also just emerged from a great war which has left behind it a legacy of guerilla operations, which are still in progress and which have so shown up the defects of their old military system that army reform has become one of the pressing political questions of the day. I have had the opportunity of studying the American army both in the field and subsequently under the process of reform; whilst I do not contend that they have by any means solved this question satisfactorily, at the same time I think we can learn something from their mistakes. In certain directions even we have a great deal to learn from their experience.

Before going on to these special points I may perhaps be permitted to make a few general remarks on the scheme unfolded by the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War. I hope he will not think me guilty of presumption if I venture to express the opinion that his speech was the most momentous statement ever made in the history of the British Army. We may not approve of his scheme in every detail, but I think we must all agree that it shows a grasp of broad principles, and that, therefore, he has earned our goodwill. We shall do what is possible to assist him in the path on which he has set out. I listened last night with great attention to the strictures on his scheme passed by the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition. I hoped that from his wide experience in connection with the War Office he would have thrown out some useful hints in connection with that scheme. I must say from my own experience of the *regime* of the Leader of the Opposition at the War Office that he has left behind him there nothing but tender memories on account of the courteous and suave manner in which he presided over that Department. But when I come to consider his present proposals it seems to me that his only contribution to practical statesmanship in this matter was, in the first place, to suggest a decrease in the Army; secondly, to recommend that we should abolish the idea of an expeditionary force, as it might provoke our neighbours; thirdly, that we should increase the civilian element at the War Office; and lastly, by way of arming the country against possible dangers, he advised us to adopt the policy of the conciliatory smile in dealing with our neighbours. I think we all remember the sad fate of the young lady of Riga, and I am afraid if we adopt this policy of the smile, the smile will again be on the face of the tiger. The Leader of the Opposition then said he feared that the Secretary of State for War had some great military purpose. I venture to hope that he has. I think it is time that in putting forward a scheme of Army reform in this House the Government should have some great military purpose behind it, and I venture to express the opinion that this great military purpose is to try to bring the military forces of this great Empire up to the level of its responsibilities. Perhaps I may be permitted without presumption to offer my congratulations to the Army reformers in this House, because while they have borne the burden and heat of the day, and for many years have been sowing the good seed, it is only lately that it has fallen on good ground—ground, too, which has often been condemned in the past as barren and unproductive. Still, it has now brought forward a harvest which, though perhaps not entirely satisfactory to everyone, is, I hope, only an earnest of more good things to come. I think the Army reformers in this House for a long time have naturally felt that their proposals were not always met in the spirit in which they were made, but I do not think they should on that account abuse the right hon. Gentleman because he has now come round to their opinions. I think they should rather congratulate themselves on having converted him in some respects, and that they should combine together to help him in every way, and to give his scheme a chance instead of merely assailing it with destructive criticism.

In considering this scheme one of the first things that suggests itself to my mind as striking is that two such high military authorities as the late Commander-in-Chief and the present Secretary of State for War have agreed in their characterisation of the old system. The late Commander-in-Chief called it a Chinese system, and the present Secretary of State for War has called it a Boxer system. These are practically synonymous terms, or at any rate both are equally applicable, and it occurs to one to ask at this point whether the more highly placed Boxer leaders are to be invited to commit suicide, according to the latest diplomatic precedent. Personally, I hope not, but I feel that until this point is settled the Prime Minister must be awaiting results with a certain amount of anxiety. I am glad that the policy of arming the "man in the street" with a rifle is no longer to be relied upon. I may perhaps be permitted to remind the House what the Duke of Wellington once said in connection with this view of national defence. When there was some talk of the possible invasion of this country by France it was suggested to the Duke that in such an event all the young men would flock to the coast and hurl the presumptuous invader back into the sea. The Duke of Wellington smiled grimly and said, "If the young men of England cannot enlist in the Army I should advise them to stay at home and not make fools of themselves" I hope we shall hear no more of entrusting the defence of this country to "young men with rifles."

There is one point which I think would strike everyone who heard the right hon. Gentleman's statement, and that is that some of the more important lessons of the war in South Africa have been well taken; and, in my opinion, if the war did nothing else but show up the defects of our military system, and teach us how to remedy them, it would be well worth while. He struck at the root of the whole matter when he said that the voluntary system is nothing to be proud of unless it produces efficient defenders. That statement has caused a good deal of comment on the other side of the House, and the suggestion has been made that the Government is going to introduce a system of conscription. I do not think that this inference need necessarily be drawn. We require a large number of recruits each year—I do not know exactly how many—and the question is, shall we be able to get these recruits ? If not, the whole scheme falls to the ground. Therefore, we must either force them into the service by compulsion, or make it worth their while to come in. I think the country will be willing to try the latter alternative first. In connection with my American experience I had special facilities for studying the problem of recruiting there, and I did so in great detail during the last two years.

I may say that I have examined thousands of American recruits, and I have talked to hundreds of them, and when I say that they are probably superior in physique and intelligence to any troops in the world, I think it is desirable that we should get the same material here if possible. The experience I learned there may possibly be useful to the House, and I may perhaps be allowed to quote a few figures. First of all, the term of military service is entirely different from our own. It is only three years, with the option of re-engagement. A very large proportion re-engage, because it is made worth while to do so. The pay of the private on joining is 1s. 9½d. per day, after two years service it is raised to 1s. 10½d., after three years to 2s. 0½d. ; after four years to 2s. 2d. ;

and after five years to 2s. 6d. There are no "stoppages" out of this pay, and the figures I have quoted represent what the soldier has to spend as he likes. All these rates are increased by 20 per cent. in time of war, or if the soldier has to serve beyond the seas. Of course, it may be said that the cost of living in America is very much greater, but this counts for little in the case of the private soldier, as everything is found for him. At these rates they succeed in getting men of a high physical and intellectual standard. The average height of recruits is 5 feet 7 inches, the average age is twenty-two, and all the men must be at least able to read and write. Only from 15 to 20 per cent. of the applicants are enlisted. From these figures I deduce that if we could offer a rate of pay for really mature men—I don't mean for boys—of 1s. 9d. per day, it is quite possible that we might get as good a class of men as are to be got in America. I believe we could secure really mature men at these rates, which would mean an extra cost of something like £3,000,000 a year. From that amount, however, could be deducted what is now wasted on mere boys, who are quite unable to take their place in the field. I think that by adding to these terms some such scheme of old age pensions as was suggested in the case of the garrison regiments, it would be a sufficient inducement to tempt men to leave the labour market and come into the Army. I rejoice very much that the right hon. Gentleman suggests that cubicles should be tried in barracks. One of the greatest drawbacks to decent men enlisting are the conditions of barrack-room life, especially at night. Of course, these proposals all mean money, but the right hon. Gentleman stated that he never came down to this House without running the gauntlet of spendthrift Members who wanted him to spend more money. I think that fact alone should encourage him to risk the expense, and if he does I will do everything in my power to save him from that lamp-post in Palace-yard.

We now come to a very much debated point, and that is the proposal to form these army corps. The army corps has been attacked in no measured terms in the course of the debate, and I must say myself that I am not at all enamoured of that form of unit. At the same time, we must give the right. hon. Gentleman's scheme a chance. If he can produce six army corps ready in all respects to take the field, I do not think we have any right to condemn his proposals offhand. He does not put them forward merely on his own initiative, but on the advice of Lord Roberts. The Leaders of the Opposition contended last night that Lord Roberts really could not know much about the matter, because he had been only two months at the War Office. I am not sure that that fact in itself may not be of great advantage to him. But his study of the military requirements of this country has extended not over two months, but over more than fifty years, from a time before the present Secretary of State for War was even born. We must give Lord Roberts and the Secretary of State a chance to produce these army corps before we condemn their proposals as absurd or ridiculous.

In some respects, perhaps, the most important part of the right hon. Gentleman's statement was that in which he expressed his determination to appoint none but competent generals and commanding officers to posts of high command. He has not underrated the difficulties of this task, and the debate which took place on last Monday and Tuesday nights has afforded conclusive proof of the obstacles he will have to face in this House as well as outside. But the House and the country must support the right hon. Gentleman against the paralysing influences of good nature and aristocratic connections, and I prefer to believe that they will. It is difficult to imagine a more vicious or demoralising influence than that of the appointment to the command and instruction of young troops at home of generals or commanding officers who, being proved inefficient in the field, have been sent home as failures. The enforcement of such a rule must, of course, bring a certain amount of hardship upon individuals, but the interests of the public service are infinitely above the interests of individuals, and all I would add on this point is that it would be a wise policy to give these officers who have committed no crime, beyond incompetence, the opportunity of resigning, without public scandal. It might also be better to allow them, if possible, to retire without any loss of pension. If the Secretary of State really succeeds in appointing none but the best men to positions of high command, he will at one stroke have done one of the first things needful to reform both the War Office and the Army.

I should like to enter my vigorous protest against the vicious practice of emasculating the War Office at the commencement of a war, when the co-operation of the trained staff is most needed, by releasing a large portion of the staff officers for service in the field. In the case of the Intelligence Department, which is only a small body, I believe that at the beginning of the present war no less than seventeen officers, who had been trained to the duties of the Department, were allowed to go to the front. Such a practice would destroy the efficiency of any office, and it is also hard upon officers who have to take up the appointments temporarily, Such officers merely keep the places warm, doing all the dirty work when the strain is greatest, and are unceremoniously bundled out when the warriors return from the front. Any officer appointed to a highly paid post in the War Office should be appointed only on the clear understanding that he serves in that office, subject to his efficiency, for a full fixed term, and that no volunteering for active service can be permitted. Another practice to be avoided is the sending of our trained non-commissioned staff to the front, as under such circumstances the young recruits who pour in during the time of war have no proper instruction. Instead of the training staff being weakened at such a time, it should rather be increased. In regard to the raising of the Imperial Yeomanry, I must express deep regret that the question of the co-operative defence of the Empire has not been brought forward in some shape in this connection. It may be said that the time is not ripe. I think the time is peculiarly ripe. I have lived for some years in the Colonies and am still in touch with Colonial opinion, and my belief is, whatever the Governments of the Colonies may be saying, that the people are only too ready to take part in any scheme of co-operative defence of the Empire if you will give them the opportunity. The Governments are waiting to see which way the cat will jump, and I believe that any well-considered proposal would meet with a most enthusiastic response. Failing such a proposal, I wish the right hon. Gentleman had been able to suggest a scheme by which each of the Colonies concerned would have accepted a fixed share, however small, in the Imperial offensive Army. We ought to know just how many men we can count upon and of what arms, and they ought to, have their fixed place in the mobilisation tables. If anything of that sort is done, I hope the men we get will be mounted infantry or artillery, and that we shall hear no more about "dismounted men preferred." With regard to the great question of the training of the Army, I hope that in any future arrangement the training will be extended continuously as far as possible all the year round. We are the only country in the world, except China, which expects to fight only in fair weather. As to the question of the proposed Volunteer artillery, I do not think it would be possible to train Volunteer batteries by giving them only thirty days in camp. Whatever may be given to the infantry Volunteers, I hope more training will be given to the artillery. Another most important point is the provision of a larger supply of small-arm ammunition for the use of our infantry. The shooting of the American infantry soldier is infinitely superior to that of our own; the reason being that he is allowed practically as much ammunition as he pleases; and is given a range to use as well. At the same time, of course, there is more room for ranges in America. One other point in connection with mounted troops is the weight of the equipment our horses have to carry. I hope the right hon. Gentleman will take advantage of the American experience in lightening the load. The American saddle is much lighter than ours, and the equipment the horses have to carry on service when chasing bands of Indians—which work may be said to resemble somewhat our present operations—is also much lighter. I should be very pleased to give the right hon.

Gentleman privately certain information which I have on this subject. The United States cavalry are very much better trained than are our cavalry in scouting, dismounted duties, and especially horse-mastership. I was glad to hear that the right hon. Gentleman is to ask for more money to be spent on manœuvre grounds.

MR. BRODRICK: More power.

*MR. ARTHUR LEE: As long as the right hon. Gentleman gets the manœuvring grounds I care very little whether it is by powers or by money, as the amount involved is so small. The Germans are spending only about £300,000 annually on their whole system of camps, while they have spent only £6,000,000 in all. With regard to the training of officers, I am very glad there is to be a Committee to examine into the courses of instruction at the Royal Military Academy and Royal Military Colleges. Personally, I think the course of training at these schools is at present unreal and unpractical. With the exception of, perhaps, a certain amount of drill, one learns nothing whatever that is of the slightest use in after service. I hope the Committee will investigate the courses of study and the experience gained at that excellent institution the Royal Military College at Kingston, Canada. Having had the honour of being instructor there for five years, I can testify that the course is infinitely more practical than at either of our military colleges, and this has been proved by results, The hon. Member who referred to the question of officers' expenses greatly over-estimated the figures. He quoted only his experience of certain crack regiments, and took the expenses of the whole Army to be in like proportion. There is no objection, I think, to having one or two crack regiments, but there are an enormous number of regiments, notably the Artillery, Engineers, and Infantry, in which young officers with only small allowances of £100 a year, or even less, are able to get on perfectly well. I must say I do not think the right hon. Gentleman's proposal to have officers' uniforms made by Government tailors will meet with any very enthusiastic response in the Army. From what I have seen of Government tailors and regimental fitters, I am sure the results would not be very satisfactory. It would, however, be an excellent thing if uniforms were simplified and the cost reduced to the lowest possible figure.

As to the "engrossing topic" of the Order in Council, I understand that the right hon. Gentleman has stated that Lord Roberts, who has not served in the War Office previously, wishes to see the full horrors of the system before expressing any opinion upon it. If this is so, I think we are bound to respect that wish, and therefore I do not propose to enter now into the question which has recently been ventilated in another place with such unsatisfactory results. I must, however, warn the right hon, Gentleman that if this matter is not dealt with it will become even more engrossing in the future than it is at present. I will only add now that the usefulness of the Committee at present sitting on the War Office has been much impaired by the fact that they are not allowed to go behind that Order in Council, and therefore are unable to examine the real *crux* of the whole matter. I heartily endorse the tribute of the right hon. Gentleman to the labours of the War Office staff during the war. We hear so much of "war as made in Germany" that it is refreshing to learn that the German expedition to China was so badly organised and equipped that it was quite unable to take the field until we had fitted out and assisted it from our own stores. In this connection I may read to the House an extract from a letter which I received a few days ago from General Chaffee, who commands the American Army in China. He says—

> "I really have had much pleasure in meeting with officers of the British Service who are here in China. A very splendid lot of men they are too, from the general commanding, down through all with whom I have had intercourse. I say to you very frankly that I admire the straightforward way the British have of doing things, and they have the best staff organisation in China. The equipment of the force is also good for service in China. I read the order for their mobilisation in India. It is a marvellous exhibition of foresight, and yet is nothing more than experience setting in motion the staff for a

division, with everything necessary to the perfect working of the machine mentioned by name."

That is, I think, very satisfactory testimony. I am glad, also, to hear that the right hon. Gentleman proposes to appoint retired military officers to some of the clerkships in the War Office. Little enough is at present done for such officers, and they would have, at any rate, some knowledge of the needs of the Service. Furthermore, a little additional encouragement might be given to young officers. It does not stimulate officers to study their profession or to give their best energies to it if they are continually snubbed and repressed. It may seem a small matter to the House, but I fail to see why when an officer is ordered to take a journey on the public service, and has to pay his expenses out of his own pocket beforehand, his accounts should always be scrutinised in a spirit as though he was suspected of embezzlement; or why in matters of a halfpenny he should have to enter into a lengthy and acrimonious correspondence with the Paymaster. This may be a small point, but it means a good deal to officers, and, after all, courtesy costs nothing. Moreover, it is a serious error of policy to postpone the rewards for distinguished services until the ambitious blood has become chilled, and hope deferred has made the heart sick.

I thank the House for having listened so patiently to my remarks. They are not in any way intended to traverse the whole of the right hon. Gentleman's speech, but I felt that I must touch upon certain points in regard to which I had special experience. I have no desire to examine the Secretary of State's scheme in a hypercritical spirit, and in any criticism I have made, or may in future make, I wish to assure the right hon. Gentleman that I am actuated solely by a desire to strengthen his hands, and to give him every possible assistance in his courageous and statesmanlike attempt to bring the military forces of this great Empire to a level with its responsibilities.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): May I venture to appeal to the House to allow the Speaker now to leave the Chair. We have still two Votes to get, and on those two Votes exactly the same discussion can be continued; while if we are driven late there may be some difficulty in finishing the two Votes.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield) suggested that the general discussion should be continued on the present motion, and the division taken on the Votes afterwards, as on a previous occasion the debate on the War Office had been checked when the House went into Committee.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said it was really a matter of indifference which course was taken, but possibly there might be a hitch at the end, and some difficulty experienced in getting the Votes through. He thought the better course would be for the Speaker to leave the Chair at this stage.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) concurred in the view of the Leader of the House, and said he had no doubt a certain latitude of discussion would be allowed.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

(SUPPLY.)

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1901–2.

A. 450,000, Number of Land Forces.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER: I listened to the able speech of the right hon. Member for the Forest of Dean and the hon. Member for Fareham Division, and was much much struck by the ability and technical knowledge displayed, and its usefulness in a debate of this kind. No doubt they compared very favourably with the eloquent speeches of the Leader of the Opposition, the right hon. the Member for West Monmouth and the Leader of the House. They were businesslike. What is wanted is that hon. Members who have gained experience should put their views before the House, so that the Secretary of State for War may get some idea of what is thought in the country as well as at the War Office.

Anyone who heard the Secretary of State for War could not help realising the enormous amount of work he has done in the War Office in times gone by, and the large technical knowledge he has acquired of the subject. No doubt his scheme is, on paper, very good. If it could be carried out, it would be one of the best schemes ever submitted to the House for re-modelling the Army. But there are several things which raise doubts as to whether it can be carried out. I have never met a single officer who has not spoken of the difficulty of getting recruits for the Regular Army. I believe even the War Office is not ignorant of these difficulties, because from a conversation I had with him nine months ago, the late Under-Secretary for War looked forward to the difficulty of getting recruits to keep up the strength of the Regular Army. Another difficulty is that of organisation. It is a magnificent organisation on paper. We have been before offered schemes of organisation on paper which were quite beautiful, and I question whether that unfolded by the Secretary for War will be very much, if at all, better than that we had at the beginning of the war in South Africa. I trust that the present Secretary for War will do more for his predecessors in transforming visionary schemes into realities, and in getting his proposals transferred from paper into action at once.

We are all grateful to the Secretary for War for having increased the artillery. There is not a single Service Member in the House who has not for years past begged the War Office to increase our artillery and raise the proportion of guns to the same figure as in foreign armies. Year after year there were debates in the House questioning whether the guns were up to modern pattern, and year after year we were told that they were quite perfect. Only the other day the Secretary for War quoted a military expert, who stated that our field guns were as good as any in Europe. That has hardly been proved in the South African War, because the Boer guns were better than ours. And why is it, if they were as good as any in Europe, that the War Office bought the other day seventy-two guns in Germany of a new pattern, for which special ammunition must be made? If our guns are quite perfect, why buy guns in Germany, not to send out to South Africa but to arm our artillery at home? No doubt the guns in South Africa were bad weapons, and I hope the Secretary for War will concentrate his attention on this question until we obtain better guns than at present.

I come to the cavalry proposals. We heard something about the re-arming of the Yeomanry, but nothing about the training and re-arming of the cavalry. The hon. Member for Fareham Division mentioned the superior training and equipment of the American cavalry, and one of the most important points in any Army reform will be to make our cavalry more efficient in scouting, more useful in feeling for the enemy, and in fighting on foot, and to make them less fond of the shock of the sabre and the lance. It was only a few years ago that the lance was introduced in our cavalry, and I think that experience has proved that the lance is the one thing to make our cavalry useless, as it attracts the attention of the enemy from a long distance. Cavalry should be the eyes and ears of the Army, and not like Yeomanry, fit only to charge a mob in bread riots. I sincerely hope we shall never have mobs rising to demand bread, and need to have to suppress them by cavalry charges. We want our cavalry to be the eyes and the feelers of our Army, and they have not been trained at all in that way. Besides the Regular cavalry, as we have got it, there is none at present, and will not be for some time to come, until the Imperial Yeomanry is raised, with the Reserve forces. In the memorandum made by the Service Members last year it was pressed on the Government that we should have in England a force thoroughly equipped with artillery, cavalry, and a supply train, as well as infantry. That is what we have never had. We have had plenty of infantry, but have been deficient in cavalry and artillery, and there is no proposal to produce the reserve cavalry for a long to time come.

When the Imperial Yeomanry are raised I hope it will not be the scamped article we have sent out to South Africa. We want something better trained, and I should like much to know whether it is going to differ from mounted Militia. They are to get something like a month's training, and to be treated exactly as Militia, being taught to fight on foot. The only difference will be that they are to be paid 5s. a day instead of 1s. given to the Militia, and they are to be mounted. I do not understand how the Government are to supply the mounts. If the 5s. a day went for supplying the horses and the keep of the horses, nobody could complain; but if the pay is to be 5s. free, then it will draw away recruiting from the regular cavalry and the ordinary Militia. Last year and the year before the Guards were increased so that some of them might be sent to Gibraltar or Malta, in order to relieve the line battalions there; but that increase is to be maintained, and the Guards are to be withdrawn from Mediterranean duty. The great difficulty at the present moment is that of the foreign garrisons. Of course we have been told about the veteran garrison regiments, but we have not had the latest information as to the recruiting of these garrison regiments. It was expected that they would be recruited from the Royal Reserves, but these were for a long time unarmed and untrained, until the need for them had gone by, and moreover there was no place to put them in if the other troops had come home. I have been told on fairly good authority that the recruiting of the garrison regiments from the Royal Reserves has been a dead failure. The hon. Member for the Chelmsford Division of Essex told us that in one district only 24 out of 1,500 had volunteered, and 12 of these had been rejected by the doctor. In another garrison town where there were 4,000 Royal Reserves the magnificent number of 50 had been collected from the garrison regiments. Even if these figures were doubled what prospect is there of getting eight battalions? I quite agree, however, that there will be many more than now at the close of the war, but not the number necessary, for the men who come home will expect to get civil employment. Reservists may be very willing to go to the front for a year, but it is not very likely that they will desire to spend the rest of their lives in Malta or Gibraltar, and I am quite sure it is altogether hopeless to expect to get eight battalions for garrison duty. If three are got it may, however, be some relief, and set two battalions of Guards and one line regiment free.

On the subject of the difficulty of getting recruits, I would point out the utter fallacy of that being solved by the ballot for the Militia. No country in the world has compulsory service for foreign service. Moreover, no country would stand it. However many troops we could get in England by compulsory service for home defence, we could not get the troops in that way to go abroad. The ballot for the Militia if carried out in the old way would result simply in buying substitutes, and we could not keep up foreign garrisons to be perpetually stationed abroad. I am pleased to find that having a Militiaman as an Under Secretary for War has done much for the Militia, and I congratulate the War Office upon it. The £3 bounty and 3d. a day for messing will be a great incentive to recruiting, but there are still two or three things lacking. The embodied Militia have been dealt with more liberally in regard to clothing than in times gone by, but there is room for improvement in the quality of the clothes. If you are going to embody the Militia you ought to give them a swagger kit, and improve the quality of the clothing in many ways, and also make it fit for foreign service, so as to avoid the necessity for re-clothing them before they go abroad. I think an immense deal might be gained for the Army if the Militia were enlisted both for home and foreign service. It is true that many Militia regiments have been got to volunteer for foreign service; but the manner in which they have been asked to volunteer has caused all sorts of jealousies. I know of one instance where a colonel never thought of volunteering, and, when reminded that he might do so, he volunteered and the regiment was not taken, while another regiment which volunteered at first was taken. Another point is that very often the regiment which volunteers is very weak, whereas strong regiments are wanted for foreign service. Or there may be very few officers, especially young officers, and that is a very serious matter. Practically all the young officers have been swept out of the Militia into the Regular Army, and there are very few regiments with senior subalterns of more than one year's training. In many regiments there is at present not a single subaltern of more than three months standing. This is a very serious matter, because it is a fact that it is very much harder to work a Militia than a Regular regiment, partly because they have not had the same training, and partly because they have civilian ideas. Another point is that the old system should be reverted to of putting a good non-commissioned officer, when he is found, on to the permanent staff. At the present moment the permanent Militia non-commissioned officers are taken from the Regular Army, and the result is that when the best non-commissioned officers in the Regular Army are abroad, there are none worth anything to send to the Militia. There is still another point. When a Militia regiment is embodied and short of men, it should be allowed in certain circumstances to recruit beyond its own district. I myself do not believe in voluntary field artillery. No doubt it is better than none at all, but I do not believe that it will ever be efficient. I would like to know whether it is intended to have any Militia artillery as well.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton) said it was intended to raise batteries of Militia artillery.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER: I am gratified at that answer. A very important point has been brought forward with regard to the Volunteers in respect to the training of officers. It has been suggested by the Secretary of State that the Militia and Volunteers would have opportunity of training; but that is not the point. It is not a question of men taking an opportunity of learning their duty—those who are keen upon that will always take every opportunity, but there are others who are not keen about their work—what is required is some further training for the ordinary Volunteer officer, who should be better trained, to make the battalion efficient. There is one point with regard to the Volunteers and Yeomanry sent to South Africa in which they were deficient: there was a very great lack of discipline.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): No, no; not at all. The hon. Gentleman has no business to bring charges of this sort.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER: I do not suggest there is any refusal to march or anything of that kind, but there are very irksome details, on fatigue duty, for instance, which Volunteers and Yeomanry are never efficient in, and I hope some extra training will be given to them so as to bring them into closer touch with military matters. With regard to organisation, people in this world do not believe much in army corps as army corps, but they believe in artillery, cavalry, and infantry in proper proportions. If creating an army corps means providing these things in their proper proportion then it will be a very good thing. With regard to decentralisation, if it is intended to decentralise by giving much of the work done at Pall Mall to local commanders, the work must be done thoroughly, and the staff at Pall Mall thoroughly reorganised so as to do away with any unnecessary clerks. With regard to decentralisation, complaint is made that one of the difficulties in that process is that local officers are quite as dilatory in their work as the War Office itself. That is due to their having been trained on War Office principles. One of the most necessary things is to do away with all the unnecessary letter writing. If it be true, as is suggested by the Secretary of State, that there are 3,500 letters to be answered daily, the reform ought to have taken place years ago. The most important part of the scheme, so far as I can see, is with regard to the promotion of general officers, and I hope that the House will receive more than a mere statement that the War Office will only turn competent men into generals. Having regard to the size of our Army we have more generals than any army in the world. At Gibraltar there are no less than five to command 5,000 men, when one general to do the Governor's work and two colonels are amply sufficient. Then at Halifax and Esquimault, with an establishment of 2,110 men, we have a full general drawing £2,000 a year, with a house, coals, table allowance, and forage allowance, which is a somewhat large amount, taking it altogether, to pay for the command of 2,110 men. We seem to be increasing the number of generals although we do not increase the number of our troops. The policy of the War Office has resulted in the production of the most expensive article in the Army, the general. One suggestion that has been made is a very good one, which is that a man should not be promoted higher than a brigadier except for distinguished service. A scheme of this kind is not a good one unless it reduces expenditure and extravagance. Extravagance should be cut off. In our case we could do with at least half the staff officers and generals that we have at present. No doubt the ability of some of the officers in the field will have to be provided for, but there ought to be a corresponding decrease in generals by seniority. The statement as to efficient garrisons is fictitious. There is no provision for getting recruits for the Regular Army, and we should only have skeleton battalions, very pretty to look at upon paper but of no use in the field. There is no real scheme for decentralisation, because the right hon. Gentleman cannot yet trust the generals to be less dilatory in their methods than the War Office, and there can be no decentralisation until the generals are properly trained to the work. Pall Mall is the only place as to which the Committee has no definite statement, though they know from the late Commander-in-Chief that the system existing there does not work, and that some reform is urgently required in order that the War Office should work properly. So far as reforms go there are a few small reforms in the scheme of the right hon. Gentleman, and with regard to those the right hon. Gentleman can depend upon the support of every Service Member in the House, but when it comes to great reforms we think the scheme is a mythical one and will prove a failure.

Mr. Courtenay Warner.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth) said that in his opinion the most important feature of the whole scheme was that it transposed the order in which the country had regarded for the last forty years our military obligations in the respect that an effective army for over sea service was put first and everything else afterwards. That was where the scheme of the right hon. Gentleman was a great reform. What he liked about the new departure was that it came down from the nebulous atmosphere of army corps, which meant anything or nothing, and gave plain figures. The right hon. Gentleman came down to the House and said that, after providing for India and foreign garrisons, the necessities of Empire demanded a force of 120,000 men organised, trained, and equipped as a field army for service abroad.

With that preface, he desired to ask if those 120,000 men were to be ready to start on oversea service at any moment, and, if so, he desired to know when, under the scheme, those 120,000 men had sailed what remained to maintain that force for an indefinite period in the field? The second question he desired to put was what was the proportion of cavalry, of field artillery, and of infantry that would remain as a reserve ready to follow them when required for reinforcements in the field. He had never been one of those who condemned Mr. Cardwell's scheme; he always urged that it did not contemplate the exigencies of actual war, and it did not contemplate greater expense oversea in times of international peace. This scheme was based on the foundation of the necessity of meeting a state of international war. With regard to the employment of the Yeomanry, there was no indication in the minds of the Government that this time was opportune for bringing together all the army forces required, but the forces proposed to be raised under the head of Yeomanry could not possibly be so called; they were mounted men for military purposes, but certainly not Yeomanry. And why were they called Imperial? He protested at a time like this against conferring the name of "Imperial" upon a force which was not "Imperial," and which originally was only organised for the purposes of meeting invasion.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) called attention to the inequalities of pay as between the Colonial troops and the Yeomanry and the men of the Regular Army. He was not interested very much in urging upon the Government the advisability of increasing the pay of the men of the Regular Army, and he must be understood as opposing the war in every possible way. The point which he raised was not merely with reference to the war but the principle which had recently been set up of paying one class of men a certain rate of pay and paying the vast bulk of the men of the Army another rate. He asked the Under Secretary of State for War to tell him the number of men under arms in South Africa at the present time who were receiving not less than 5s. a day. There were thousands of Colonial troops in South Africa who had been all through the war receiving 5s. a day. They might be worth it, for he was not competent to pass an opinion on this matter, though one might come to the conclusion from the length of time the war had taken, and from the unsatisfactory position the war was in at present, that those men were not worth three farthings a day. Why should the Regular Army—the men of the Highland Brigade who fought so bravely and lost so heavily in South Africa, the men of the Connaught Rangers, the Dublin Fusiliers, and the Inniskilling Fusiliers, who had gone through the greatest possible hardship and toil—receive 1s. a day, while the gaudily dressed troopers from Australia received 5s. a day? He had received representations from many men in the Regular Army pointing out that the utmost discontent and dissatisfaction existed in many corps because, although they had gone through all the hardships of the campaign in a greater degree than many of the Colonial troops, they only received 1s. per day. They were told with pride from time to time that this war, though disastrous in many respects, had in one respect been a glorious success, inasmuch as it had shown that this world-wide Empire was one, and that at sound of the drum and the first appearance of danger thousands of stalwart colonists, from Australia and elsewhere, joined the colours. What did it amount to? If they offered the Australian and other troops the beggarly 1s. a day which they gave to the Gordon Highlanders and to the Dublin Fusiliers they would not get 1,000 men to come from the whole of Australia. Why was it that men were flocking still in thousands to South Africa? It was because they were offering these young men the extraordinary and unprecedented pay of 5s. a day. Before they boasted of the devotion of the colonies to the mother country, and before they said that they were in any way enthusiastic over this war, they must see whether at the ordinary rate of pay these men would come to serve. They sometimes heard a talk of conscription. The hon. Member said they would never want conscription as long as they gave 5s. a day. At that rate they would get all the men they needed. If the right hon. Gentleman would give some reason for paying these men 5s. a day he would be satisfied, but if not he was afraid that on the next Vote he would have to move a reduction.

COLONEL WELBY (Taunton) said he most heartily welcomed the scheme of the right hon. Gentleman, and congratulated him upon his courage and devotion to duty in submitting it. He was only sorry that the plans of reform had not been adopted sooner. If the foundation of this great reorganisation had been laid in time of peace it would have been much more easy to carry out the work. To carry out a scheme like this they needed the public opinion that had been generated by the war. He thought he might fairly claim that there was an amount of public opinion in this country tending towards Army reorganisation, which was very much greater than had been acknowledged by either Front Bench in that House. Had the foundation of this scheme been laid in time of peace hundreds of lives would have been saved in South Africa, and millions of money would have been saved. One of the great features of the scheme was the adoption of the army corps system. Personally he had advocated that system over and over again in the House; but in criticising the scheme of the right hon. Gentleman he feared that he must differ from him as to the number of army corps, or military districts, into which the United Kingdom was to be divided. He believed that one of the lessons of the war was that the army corps system was unfitted for our needs either for defence or for offence. The true unit of organisation for the Army was the division, and, after all, the army corps was merely the grouping together of two or three divisions. It would be far better, instead of trying to create these army corps, that we should divide the United Kingdom into three great military commands—South Britain, North Britain, and Ireland. Into those important military districts we could put as many divisions as the organisation required. He believed that the organisation of military commands and divisions would overcome the many difficulties which were foreshadowed in the present scheme, and he would most earnestly press the right hon. Gentleman to carefully consider the scheme before he finally decided upon the shape of the permanent organisation of the Army.

One of the great features of the army corps organisation was decentralisation. The result of that decentralisation seemed to be that the organisation of the War Office became a secondary consideration. He believed that as long as the power was centred there it was absolutely necessary that there should be responsibility clearly defined; but the moment they appointed great executive officers commanding large districts in this country, who would advise with the Secretary of State for War, he thought the organisation of the War Office might well be left to the Secretary of State and the Commander-in-Chief to arrange between themselves. A part of the scheme, also, was that which arranged for peace commands to be the same as those in war. He looked upon this as being fraught with one of the greatest advantages to the Army. Not only would it be the means of training our generals and staff, but it would be the means of overcoming that difficulty which had become apparent in the present war—the want of professional zeal in our officers.

He believed that zeal and the desire for efficiency were equally distributed among all classes of officers in the Army. If that was the case, we must look deeper for the want of professional zeal which had been displayed in the present war. He ventured to say that that must be traced to the Army system under which the officers had been living. Officers who were known to the great officials of the Army had a far better chance of promotion than regimental officers and minor staff officers scattered throughout the country. A man knew that, however devoted he might be to his duty, and however he might render himself efficient, unless he came under notice or made himself prominent in some way he had little or no chance of getting on. Some one had said that promotion in the Army was seniority tempered by interest. No one had ever said that it was seniority tempered by zeal. Under the new system generals would try to pick up and select the very best men. He was perfectly certain that the duties of the Board of Selection at the War Office would be infinitely lighter and more satisfactory. The real difficulty with regard to the reduction of expenses was the comparison between different regiments. One aspect of the question could be dealt with by the central authorities at the War Office, and that was that when a sumptuary regulation was published it should be enforced upon all regiments alike with absolute impartiality. This was not entirely a military question. Civilians could greatly help. If a regiment did not give an entertainment costing each officer perhaps £40 it was considered mean; so that civilians could assist in lowering the expenses of officers by not requiring more than a reasonable amount of hospitality. In conclusion, he thanked the right hon. Gentleman for the splendid prospect of organisation he had put before the House. He did not believe that reorganisation was militarism, but organisation and preparation were the best means of overcoming any possible approach to the military spirit in this country. As a practical soldier, he knew how deeply rooted were many of the abuses in the Army, and he could only say that in the good cause to which the Secretary of State had set his hand it would be his prime duty and proud pleasure to afford him his utmost support.

COLONEL NOLAN (Galway, N.) thought there was no harm in having one or two costly regiments, but great care should be taken by the colonel to protect the poorer officers from being compelled by undue pressure to incur unnecessary expenses. As to the corps organisation, it was simply a question of whether it was intended to have in the field armies of under or over 100,000 men. The best organisation for an army of under 100,000 men was that of divisions, but for above that number the corps organisation was absolutely necessary. He should like the Secretary of State, however, to explain what the cost of that organisation would really be, as it did not appear to be fully stated in the Estimate. A great mistake had been made by the practical abolition of the Quartermasters' Department, as there was now no staff to look specially after the movements of the troops and matters of that kind. The weak point in the present proposals was, no doubt, that the Secretary of State had not sufficiently increased the attractions held out to the private soldier. Before the system of cubicles was adopted on any large scale it should be tried tentatively in order to see what the private soldier's opinion was in regard to it, but in any case such alterations were not enough to draw men into the Army. The pay was the great drawback. That should be increased by at least 6d. per day, and even then it would not be up to the American standard. He believed that most of the recruiting difficulties would disappear if such an alteration were made. The present system was the most abominable in the world. The rate of pay was all very well for a boy of seventeen, but when he reached the age of twenty-five or twenty-six he was worth a great deal more. Boy regiments might be a very good thing if they were treated as boys and not as men, but to have such a large proportion of boys as was now the case was a very expensive matter, as they had not the stamina to undergo the hardships of a campaign. With a better rate of pay better men would be obtained. He thought such a change would not cost more than £900,000. The Secretary of State might not like to add so large a sum to his Estimates, but he would not get a proper voluntary Army without it. With regard to the Reserve, the right hon. Gentleman's proposal was too modest. The Reserve should number at least 200,000. The great secret on the Continent was to have about one-fourth of the army with the colours and the remaining three-fourths engaged in civilian pursuits. As to shooting, volley firing was really a waste of ammunition. To have good shooting individual firing must be insisted upon and much more ammunition allowed. In these matters the Secretary of State should not get his advice so much from generals who had distinguished themselves in the field or on the staff. The House of Commons knew far more about recruiting and many other matters concerning the Army, and the right hon. Gentlemen would do well to take their advice and to use his own common sense rather than to rely too much upon so-called experts.

*COLONEL BROOKFIELD (Sussex, Rye) said that, judging from the speech of the Leader of the Opposition, the zeal for Army reform was on the Government side of the House; but he felt sure that in every quarter there would be a disposition to give a fair trial to any experiment brought forward by the Secretary of State for War at the present time. With regard to six army corps which were supposed to be complete, he should like to ask which of them would furnish the drafts for the Army in India, because in the event of mobilisation it would not be fair to call an army corps really fit if it had just gone through the process of finding drafts for the linked battalions in India. He hoped it would be laid down in the future that, if, owing to any circumstances, both battalions of one regiment were abroad at the same time, the Militia battalion at home should be embodied as a matter of course. He looked with the greatest hopefulness to the establishment of an army corps system as providing a reasonable probability of great decentralisation, but he urged that no attempt should be made to take a "trained civilian staff" into each of the army corps districts. That work should be trusted to military hands and heads entirely. In connection with the territorial regiments, the home battalion should as far as possible be kept in its own county. It was merely a matter of custom which led the authorities to send county regiments out of their counties when they might be in them. If the practice he suggested was adopted it would be a great economy to the taxpayer, extremely popular with the officers, and have an excellent effect in solving the difficulty of civil employment for the men. Reference had been made to the desirability of generals knowing those under their command, and that object would be achieved if the units were kept in their respective districts.

The hon. Member for Lichfield had passed some strictures upon the discipline of the Volunteers and Yeomanry in South Africa. No one could advocate more strongly than he (the speaker) the strictest possible discipline, but as far as his experience went the discipline of the Volunteers and Yeomanry was neither better nor worse than that of the Regular troops. Once they were in the field all the troops behaved very much the same. As to the artillery, he had the honour of having under his command the field battery of the C.I.V., one of the drivers of which was a clerk in that House, and a more useful or smarter lot of gunners and drivers it would be difficult to find. By universal consent the weak point in his right hon. friend's proposals was the difficulty of getting the men. There was a prevalent idea that all difficulties could be solved by voting more money, or by offering fancy rates of pay, but that he believed to be a mistaken notion, and that the necessities of the case would ultimately bring them face to face with the possibility of having to adopt some other than their present system of voluntary enlistment. He could not say that he at all admired the ingenuousness of those who attacked the Secretary for War upon this matter. He thought his right hon. friend spoke upon this question of voluntary enlistment in a very statesman-like manner, and he did not think that he went out of his way to grate against the susceptibilities of anyone. Some people said that it was the "proud boast" of this country that its system was a voluntary one, but who was supposed to be the boaster—the people looking on or the men who did the work? There were several practical objections to the present system, and he thought that one of the most serious objections would ultimately prove to be that it was ruinously expensive; and, the tendency being to take recruiting more and more into open competition with the labour market, that competition must end in further disastrous expenditure, and they must finally come again face to face with the same difficulty. The question was were they going to pay other people to do their work or would they insist upon everybody taking a small share of it? He believed that there was a half-way house. There was the Swiss system and the further development of our Militia and Volunteer systems, and the lessons we had learned by the employment of the Yeomanry in the present war would also suggest solutions of the difficulty. When recourse to partial compulsion was hinted at, it was most unfair to represent the Government as advocating conscription in the full Continental sense of the term, or anything like it. He believed it would be found, however, that by the light of the present war the people were in a much more advanced frame of mind than Ministers, certainly than the Prime Minister, and that they would be prepared to go a great deal further than he seemed inclined to do when he suggested the establishment of rifle clubs all over the country. Then there was the question of altering the *status* of officers—making them more professional and, where necessary, diminishing their expenses. Now he thought he detected in the remarks of his right hon. friend a certain tendency to sneer at the Staff College.

*MR. BRODRICK: No, no.

*COLONEL BROOKFIELD said that the Staff College was not at all popular, but they should not forget how extremely useful it had been. What was the matter with the system there was that they did not encourage the right sort of regimental officers to go to the Staff College. This encouragement ought to be given, and it should be made easier for the average regimental officer to go there. The Staff College had greatly raised the standard of military knowledge during the last few years. The maps and the correspondence were now done twice as well as they were twenty years ago. He believed that the discipline of the officers stood in need of very great improvement, and one very necessary step in the direction of raising their general sense of discipline would be to make them feel more respect for the source from which all their orders came. Many of the orders that came from the old unreformed War Office only excited derision on the part of the officers who received them. He believed, also, that the system of confidential reports stood much in need of improvement; that the regulation which provided that officers should be informed of any adverse reports made about them should be strictly adhered to, and that no man should be injured for life by something said behind his back and without his knowledge. He thought officers should be given less leave than they received at present; that the work at headquarters might at the same time be made more interesting. He hoped too that before long they would see them not ashamed of wearing their uniforms on ordinary occasions. With regard to officers' expenses, he had served for some years in a cavalry regiment and knew something of the difficulty. He thought most of it arose from some obsolete, snobbish traditions which were allowed to linger in regiments because the commanding officer, or other officers, had not the good sense or the moral courage to combat them. Some very absurd customs existed in regard to wine. He remembered that upon one occasion, when his regiment was serving in India, they were in the habit of carrying all over the country old vintage port. That was a trivial item; but in this matter of wine he thought they had a good deal to learn from the Royal Artillery. He observed that their batteries on foreign service used to take over each other's wine, and the result was that they had smaller bills and much better wine. Officers might learn something on this subject if they would put to themselves two simple questions—firstly, which, without prejudice, was the smartest arm in our service? He thought that most unprejudiced people would say the Royal Field Artillery. Secondly, which arm of the service had the least wealthy officers? He thought that the answer again would be the Royal Field Artillery. They had a great deal to learn from them, and he thought that was the direction in which many of their economies should go. When orders were given or suggestions made with the object of promoting economy in the regiment, it would be better if they were sent in the form of definite orders and not simply as pious precepts. More than twenty years ago precepts of this kind were issued about young officers and their expenses, but they were never taken the least notice of, and certainly never enforced. Such instructions ought to be sent down as definite orders, and a reply insisted upon stating that they had been obeyed. He was glad that he had been in the House when those reforms in the Army were instituted by his right hon. friend, and he trusted that before a very long period of time they would see many of them carried into effect with advantage to the country.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): For some time past this debate has been in the hands of the hon. and gallant Members of this House. I confess that I have no desire and no ability to follow them through all the technical questions which they have raised and discussed. I have intervened now only because I have on the Paper an Amendment to reduce this Vote by 1,000 men. That Amendment was placed on the Paper with the assent of those who sit on this bench, and with the intention of raising the whole question of the new programme of the War Office with respect to the permanent forces of the country. That was the intention with which this Amendment was put on the Paper last night. But the situation has now been entirely changed by what has taken place this afternoon. This afternoon the First Lord of the Treasury, by an arrangement, which I think met with general acceptance, proposed that instead of the continuation of the discussion on this particular Vote we should, at a later period—some time after Easter—discuss these new proposals of the Government on a motion to be submitted by the Government formulating their proposals in express terms, and leaving it to the House to say "Yea" or "Nay" to the principle of those proposals. The hon. and gallant Member for Great Yarmouth seemed to have some doubt whether that motion would contain a due recognition of the essential importance of naval co-operation in any question relating to the efficiency of the Army.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB: My point was whether the motion would be so framed as to permit a discussion on the Army under the conditions of maritime supremacy.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I confess that I do not understand the casual expression which fell from the Secretary of State for War on this point. I believe that you cannot consider the work of the Army at all in relation to Imperial defence without beginning by accepting not only the co-operation of the Navy, but also the fact that the Navy must be the predominant element in our scheme. That arrangement having been made it is not, of course, necessary to move the Amendment which I was prepared to move, and still more unnecessary for me to make a long speech. I shall, therefore, content myself with addressing to the right hon. Gentleman two or three questions, in elucidation of his proposals, which he, perhaps, will be able to answer before the debate closes.

The first point to which I would venture to direct the attention of the Committee and the right hon. Gentleman is the financial effect of his programme—I mean the ultimate financial effect, which is not apparent on the face of the Estimate. The immediate financial effect is apparent and it is serious enough in all conscience, and I miss with regret and great apprehension any allusion to the difficulties of the financial problem. I will not repeat what was said by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouthshire, but I ask the Committee to consider this one fact, which has not been alluded to before. Let us compare these Estimates not with the Estimates of 1897 or 1898, over which they show a large increase, but with the Estimates of ten or eleven years ago. At that period the Army and Navy Estimates taken together came to £31,000,000. There was then about £14,000,000 for the Navy and £17,000,000 for the Army, and that was about the normal state of things before 1891. What is it this year? The Army and the Navy have each of them cost as much as both of those Services cost ten years ago. [AN HON. MEMBER: Of necessity.] In two years the normal Estimates—the War expenditure of this country in time of peace—have doubled, and they are now £60,000,000 or £62,000,000, whereas ten years ago they were only £30,000,000. "Of necessity," says the hon. Member opposite, and so says the *Daily Mail* and organs of that kind, which cry out for this expenditure, apparently knowing little, or caring little, how that expenditure is to be raised. This sort of progress in our military expenditure cannot go on. It has doubled in ten years. Does any hon. and gallant Member suppose we can go on doing that? Why, if it did go on, in another ten years we should be expending £100,000,000. We have to halt somewhere, and I ask the right hon. Gentleman what is to be the ultimate financial effect of these new proposals, which is not at present apparent.

Every increase of the numbers of the Army implies an increase in the cost, and we want to know the ultimate financial effect in respect of the non-effective charges. I will explain what I mean. I pass now to the question of numbers. After the speech of the First Lord of the Treasury last night, the Committee stand in need of some further explanation, because it appears to me that the First Lord did not state correctly the increase in numbers in the Regular forces demanded by the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War. I could not reconcile what I understood the First Lord to say with what the Secretary for War set forth in his statement to the House. I understood that the Secretary of State for War said on Friday last that the increases he required were these:—Regulars, 11,500; Militia, 50,000; Yeomanry, 25,000; Volunteers, 40,000: total, 126,000 increase in numbers. That is the statement I understood him to make, and which I cannot reconcile with what the First Lord of the Treasury said. I have looked at the Estimates and I am not at all clear that the financial charges for the whole of these increases is apparent on the face of this year's Estimates. There is money taken for 50,000 Reserves in addition to those already on the Paper. As to the Yeomanry and the Volunteers I am not at all clear, and it is not apparent to me that in the Estimates for this year the total charge for the Yeomanry and extra Volunteers is taken. It is apparent to me that he is not taking this year the full financial charges for the increase of 11,500 Regulars. I have looked at the comparative statement of differences and this is what I find. The increase of Regular forces taken by this year's Estimate, as shown by the statement of differences, amounts to 7,351 men. If the right hon. Gentleman will look on page 11 of the Estimates he will find that the net increase is 7,351 and not 11,500 men. That is the total increase in the Regulars charged upon this year's Estimates. The numbers called for by the right hon. Gentleman's scheme amount to 11,500 men, whereas you are only going to raise 7,351 this year, and to that extent the Estimates this year do not show the ultimate financial effect of the new proposals. Having regard to the automatic increase which must follow any increase in numbers, and the fact that the entire charge is not provided for in the present year, we ought to have a full explanation of the ultimate effect financially and of the actual increases that have taken place. That is all I want to say about that point.

With regard to these increases, I am not going now to deal with the question as to how far they are satisfactory. The hon. Member for Taunton, who rose to bless the scheme, appeared to me to condemn it in its most essential points. I should like to have some further explanation of the speech of the First Lord of the Treasury. In his original speech the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War alluded to the commitments of this country in two continents besides South Africa, and in explaining and defending that last night the First Lord of the Treasury assumed that, at all events, our responsibility for the colonies must be admitted. I want to ask the Secretary for War for how much in his new scheme does our responsibility for the colonies count? Can he tell us how much responsibility for the colonies enters into this new expenditure which we are now being called upon to provide for the Army? I put that question to him for this reason—the colonies are either self-governing or they are Crown colonies. If they are Crown colonies then we have the power and the right to make them pay for a portion of the burden of Imperial defence. If the self-governing colonies count for anything in this additional expenditure proposed by His Majesty's Government, then I say those colonies ought to contribute to that expenditure. I could go further than that, but possibly I should not be in order now in doing so; but when the time comes for the settlement of the debt for the war in South Africa—which is an Imperial war for colonial defence—are you going to ride off on the claptrap that certain colonies who have gone to the front indulge in? Is that to be the answer in regard to what ought to be demanded from the colonists for their share of this Imperial war? If the colonists pay their share of the burden of this war they ought to pay at least one-third of the whole cost which has fallen upon this country. That is why I want the right hon. Gentleman to tell us if he is charging us with any expenditure for the defence of the colonies. Are you going to suggest to the colonies that they are to pay their share? It is high time that the question was looked into, for this money has been spent for the defence of people who are as rich or richer than we are.

There is one other point as to which I should like some further explanation, and that is the question of the training and selection of men for the rank of officers in the Army. I listened with great interest the other night to a speech made by an hon. Gentleman who has just joined the House —I allude to the hon. Member for Oldham—and I was much impressed by his observations upon the system of selection of officers in the Army. I do not know whether to call it an artificial or a natural selection, but whichever it is, I can assure the Secretary for War and the Government that there is no lesson of the South African War which the country has taken more to heart. There is nothing that the country is more in deadly earnest about than that there should be a system of fair play and free competition both in the entrance to the rank of Army officers and also in subsequent promotion. A year ago about this time I called the attention of the then representative of the War Office to this subject. We have had the admission that this is a scandal, especially in the case of the cavalry, and that was admitted at the beginning of last session. On the the last occasion when the Army Estimates came before the House I expected to find from the representative of the War Office some statement as to what they propose to do in this matter. The answer I got was a most unsatisfactory piece of procedure. The right hon. Gentleman said that Supplementary Estimates were not an occasion on which proposals should be made to alter the law. But I do not know what he meant. At all events, nothing was done last year, and now when I come to the right hon. Gentleman's own proposals, I find that they do not in the least meet the gravity of the case.

What is the true principle to be applied in this case? It is the right of the nation, as a mere matter of public safety, to have at its call the whole available talent of the community for service in the rank of officer in the Army. The nation is entitled to insist that no capable youth whose services could be possibly obtained should be excluded. On the other hand, take the point of view of the parent. Every parent, whatever his social position may be, should have the right to say that his son should have every opportunity of access to the rank of officer in the Army. These I believe to be the only principles capable of solving this question. How far has the right hon. Gentleman gone in that direction? Has he taken anything that can be called a step at all? He tells us that trousers and tunics can be got direct from the Army headquarters instead of from the stores or the military tailors. That does not seem to me to meet the difficulty at all. I do not see how you can meet it unless you lay down the rule that the pay of an officer from the moment he enters the service shall be such as to enable him to live in the Army without any call on private expenditure, and no social pressure should be permitted which would make his life uncomfortable if he does not choose to incur large expenditure. The right hon. Gentleman spoke of sumptuary laws, but there is a sumptuary law existing in the Army at the present moment. Officer after officer has has told us of the scandalous amount of expenditure incurred at present, and which is enforced by social sumptuary laws. Surely the right hon. Gentleman will have no hesitation in putting down anything like boycotting in the Army. It is easy enough to invent a system which will give the young officer —and the old officer for that matter—the pay to which his services entitle him, and thereby protect him from being driven into expenditure beyond it. This is a question which a civilian is as capable of gauging as a soldier, and which the civilian is as anxious about as the soldier. We do not want the Army made cheaper for rich men. That has been done in the case of similar reforms, including admission to this House, which has been made cheaper for rich men. We want a reform which will enable the country to have full command of all available resources for the Army, and to give to persons in all stations the opportunity of a free career in the Army, to which they are entitled, and which it is for the good of the Army they should possess.

LORD STANLEY: I know a number of hon. Gentlemen desire to speak on this question, but I hope they will excuse me if I reply now as briefly as possible to the various questions which have been brought before the Committee.

The general view seems to be that the Secretary of State for War has come round to the view of Army reformers in this House. It is a peculiar delight to some people to be able to say, "I told you so." If in this case the Secretary of State and the Army reformers are in the right way for effecting real progress and reform in the Army, both the Secretary of State and the Army reformers are to be congratulated. The right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition said in his speech the other night that we must not depend entirely for our reforms on the lessons learned in the war. I quite agree that we must not depend entirely on the lessons learned in the war, but I cannot help thinking that the state the country found itself in after the troops went to South Africa should be considered, and it is that which my right hon. friend is trying to remedy in the scheme he has put before the House.

The right hon. Gentleman and hon. Gentlemen ask us how recruits are to be obtained, and they say that in two years time or so we shall not have got them. Well, it will be another chance for them in that case to say, "I told you so." But, at all events, we have no right to assume that we shall not get recruits. My right hon. friend has put forward a scheme which he believes will attract recruits, and until it is proved to be a failure we are justified in hoping that it will be a success. The question of getting new recruits is not a very large one, because the number of recruits to be added to the Army at present is, roughly, some 10,000 men. But the object of the whole of this scheme is not so much to attract new recruits as to endeavour, with the forces at our hand at the present moment, to secure increased efficiency. The right hon. Gentleman said he had heard of army corps before. We have all heard of army corps before, but I would put it to the Committee that this is a genuine attempt to have army corps not only on paper, but in reality, to bring troops together in time of peace who would be employed together in time of war; to put at the head of those troops men who would be with them in war, and who would have staffs whom they knew they could trust, and who would be known to all with whom they came in contact in time of war. It is our endeavour at the same time to bring up these various army corps to their proper strength in artillery and mounted men.

Some remarks have been made on the subject of Volunteer and Militia artillery, and some doubts have been expressed as to whether they will be effective. I am bound to say that if the question had been asked two years ago it would have been said that they would not be very efficient, but after one had seen and, still more, heard of the excellent work done by the Elswick and City Imperial Volunteer batteries in South Africa, one could not help giving every possible facility for training to these batteries.

With regard to the Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteers, whatever may be the feeling of hon. Members for or against conscription, there can be no doubt whatever that these three forces stand between us and conscription at the present time, and our object ought to be to make them to the best of our power as efficient as possible, and to rely on that loyal devotion to the service of the country they have shown in the past, to stand the extra work which, in the opinion of the Commander-in-Chief, is necessary for their real efficiency.

I will now deal with a few of the other questions brought forward. The right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean asked particularly whether we were going to have mounted infantry regiments. That is a question not mentioned in the Estimates, but it is a question which must be and is being taken up. Whether it is better to have mounted infantry or not is a debatable question. My own opinion is that the more men we can get in a regiment to pass the mounted infantry course the better for the Army; but that is only my private opinion, and it is probably wrong. With regard to the question of an Imperial mounted infantry, I quite agree with the hon. Members who urged that we should attempt to get an amalgamation for joint defence of the mounted corps of the Empire, whether they be at home or abroad. Schemes to this end have been and are being put forward, but it is a question that can hardly be rushed into. It must be carefully thought out, and must be done, not with one colony, but with all the colonies on a common basis. I do not think that the time when men are actually serving in the field is the time to put forward a definite plan. It is time to consider what plan we can put forward when the war is over. That will be the time to ask these men whether they and their Governments will consent to form an Imperial Yeomanry—a title which will be very suitable.

The hon. Member for Mid Kent asked several questions about the Yeomanry. He wanted to know if the Yeomanry would be brigaded, and the answer to that is, Yes. He then asked if every Imperial Yeomanry regiment would have its own adjutant. He spoke about equipment, and showed great distress at some prospect of the Yeomanry losing their swords. He mentioned that the chief use for swords would be in quelling bread riots should they occur, but, in my opinion, an implement that is supposed to add zest to Irish affairs would be more suitable for that purpose. He next referred to the training of the Yeomanry, but that is a matter that will be put forward as soon as possible in the form of an Army Order. I may, however, state that I do not think it is for my right hon. friend or myself to stand up in this House and express views on the training of these various forces. The one thing that the country is saying is that there should be no civilian interference in military training. Surely the Commander-in-Chief, who knows these men, who knows what training to give them to make them fit for the duties they will have to perform, is the right man to lay down the details of the training of these forces.

The hon. Member for Lichfield asked about Volunteer artillery and the time allowed them for training. That is not yet definitely settled, and will be settled in consultation with the commanding officers of these batteries; but we will try to get them out for as long as they possibly can remain. He then asked if a militia battalion short of men would be allowed to raise men out of its own county. I do not know what the military objection to that might be, but personally I cannot help thinking it might be possible to fall in with the hon. Member's views. He then spoke of the want of discipline in the Yeomanry and Militia.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER: General want of discipline.

LORD STANLEY: Yes, general want of discipline; and the hon. Member referred particularly to South Africa. Is it to be supposed that those men going out to South Africa have exactly the same idea of discipline the troops have who have been drilled at home? Nor is it expected or required of them. They did their duty. I never heard of any want of discipline among them, and I think it is rather a pity that they should have been selected as having shown a want of discipline.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER: I did not say want of discipline, but a want of training caused by a want of discipline at home.

LORD STANLEY: I accept the hon. Gentleman's explanation. I took his statement the other way.

The hon. and gallant Gentleman the Member for Yarmouth asked three questions. The first question was what Reserves would be left to fill up gaps in the ranks of the 120,000 men. Exactly the same Reserves as at present, as they would not be taken away for other regiments. He then said we must be prepared to meet an international war.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB: My question was the numerical proportion of cavalry, infantry, and artillery in the 120,000 men to be ready at any moment to embark.

LORD STANLEY: We should send abroad about sixty-three batteries and fourteen cavalry regiments, the remainder being infantry. The hon. and gallant Gentleman also asked what would be done in the case of a small war. There will be a system by which men going into the Reserve receive for the first year a small extra sum, for which they will hold themselves in readiness to be called on at any time to fill up regiments going abroad, without rendering it necessary to call up the whole Reserve. It is computed that about 5,000 men will be obtainable in this way.

With reference to the criticisms of the hon. and gallant Member for Fareham, I think the House will feel that, if in all our schemes we could get criticisms such as his, army schemes would be vastly improved. I agree with the hon. and gallant Gentleman on the question of the expenses of officers. He said that the whole question was very much exaggerated, and I am bound to say from my own experience that that is so. I believe myself that infinitely more trouble arises from the initial expenses of men going into the Army that arises from the expense of living with a regiment. The difficulty is not so much the yearly allowance as the large sum which has to be put down for an outfit in the first year. I believe a great deal can be done to limit the expenses of officers.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Is there any provision for that in the Estimates?

LORD STANLEY: I do not see how there can be. Suppose we are able to meet officers in some way in regard to clothing, that could hardly come into the Estimates; but we are going to try and get them what they want cheaper than at present. That whole question is being gone into. Then the hon. Gentleman asked what was the extra charge for the Imperial Yeomanry. We have taken £300,000 this year for the Imperial Yeomanry, which is exactly half what we will take yearly in future. The amount of the pensions for widows and orphans of the soldiers killed in the present war has only been roughly calculated, and probably there will be an increase in that direction. The amount taken this year for reserve of stores is only for a limited period of four or five years and will then cease. I hope I have now replied briefly to all the questions which have been asked.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I would appeal to the House to pass this Vote now, as otherwise we may get embarrassed. Exactly the same discussion can continue on the next Vote.

MR. SAMUEL SMITH (Flintshire) asked if he would have an opportunity of referring on the next Vote to the question of Army chaplains.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes, Sir.

Resolution agreed to.

1. £21,657,500, Pay, etc., of the Army (General Staff, Regiments, Reserve, and Departments).

MR. F. W. WILSON (Norfolk, Mid) said he desired to draw attention to a matter which was very much in the shade—namely, rifle shooting and the provision of rifle ranges. Unless men were sent into the field properly trained to the use of the rifle they would be practically useless. But how could men be properly acquainted with the rifle unless facilities were offered them? They all knew the exceedingly great difficulty of providing rifle ranges, but he did not think that a rifle range was necessary in every case. He was connected with two rifle clubs—one with a long range, the other with a miniature range—and, in his opinion, experience could be gained by practising with a Morris tube at a miniature range. The army in South Africa was confronted with 50,000 men whose one merit as soldiers was that they could ride and shoot, whereas many men were sent out who could neither ride nor shoot. Army reforms were always admirable on paper, but difficult of execution. There was a distinguished occupant of the Government Benches who was within one shot of winning a prize at Wimbledon, but he was afraid that the present distinguished Secretary of State for War was not himself a rifle shot or he would have paid more attention to the extreme desirability of making Englishmen accustomed to the use of the rifle. He hoped no disparagement would be shown towards the Volunteers who were giving their time to train themselves as soldiers, or to the men who, in a fine national spirit, were forming themselves into rifle clubs throughout England in order to qualify themselves for the defence of their country.

*MR. SAMUEL SMITH said he wished to move the reduction of the Vote by £100 in order to call attention to the large extent to which Army chaplains belonging to lawless ritualistic societies had been appointed. These societies were chiefly the English Church Union and the C.B.S., or the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament, two distinctly Romanising societies. Two years ago the House of Commons passed a resolution deploring the lawlessness shown by certain members of the Church of England, and he would remind hon. Members that members of the societies he had mentioned were going in the teeth of the Lambeth decision given by the two Archbishops. The First Lord of the Treasury himself declared ,with reference to the policy of Lord Halifax and his followers, that they made no secret of the fact that they regarded the history of the Church of England for the last three centuries as unprofitable, and yet Army chaplains were appointed from the men whose aim was to bring the ritual of the Church of England into the closest possible agreement with the Church of Rome. More than half the

House of Commons was returned at the last General Election on distinct Protestant pledges——

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is not entitled to enter into the whole question of ritualism in the Church. He must confine himself strictly to the case of Army chaplains.

*MR. SAMUEL SMITH said he would conclude his remarks by saying that he had a list of twenty Army chaplains belonging to the two extremely ritualistic societies he had mentioned, some of whom had been appointed by the Government within the last few months.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfarshire) said he desired to call the attention of the Committee to the fact that they were asked to vote 21½ millions of money in twenty minutes. The position in which the financial business of the country was now placed was due to the fact that Parliament had been summoned at so late a date. The scheme they were discussing seemed to him to have one characteristic, and one only, and that was that it was placing a very severe burden on the country. It was impossible at that hour to go into details as to the lessons to be learned from the war, but he thought it would be rash to base the organisation of the military forces of the country on those lessons. It would be rash and dangerous, not only from the point of view of the efficiency of the Army, but also from the point of view of educating public opinion in the right direction, to base the organisation of the Army on the necessities disclosed by the war in South Africa. The scheme which had been submitted by the Secretary of State for War laid an additional burden on the country at a time when it was very little able to bear it. The country had made great efforts in regard to money, and now when trade was taking a turn the Government proposed to lay a fresh burden upon it. Ten years ago military expenditure was seventeen or eighteen millions a year; now it was twenty-nine millions, and as his hon. friend the Member for Dundee had pointed out the scheme of the Government could not be fully carried out without an increased demand for money. Then there was a large demand for men to enter the Army. He held that the grave necessity which would justify such a demand for men and money had not been proved. He welcomed the fact that there would be a full discussion of the scheme later, but pending that discussion he would say that he thought that the call on the country to maintain three army corps of Regular troops ready at a moment's notice to embark was a most monstrous demand. No country in Europe maintained its first line of defence in that position. They would only have to go a step further and provide transports with steam up, to see the ridiculous absurdity of the demand. If the Government meant to have three army corps of Regular troops they would not only be departing from the present system, but they would be laying on the country a burden the extent of which could hardly be realised. He regretted extremely that the First Lord of the Treasury should have treated the matter as a party question. The right hon. Gentleman seemed to imagine that hon. Gentlemen on that side of the House had no interest whatever in Army reform. If there was to be continuity in the foreign policy of the country there should also be continuity in naval and military administration, but that could not be unless there was a certain amount of give and take between the different political parties. The Government seemed to think that they must take everything, and that the Opposition must give everything; but there should be a recognition of the fact that there were two sides to the question. None were more ready than his hon. friends to do what they thought ought to be done, but no sufficient reason had been shown for the additional burden which it was now proposed to put on the country. He would make the strongest and most emphatic protest in his power against the unwisdom of the policy which was proposed.

MR. BLAKE (Longford, S.) said he heartily sympathised with the opening statements of the hon. and gallant Gentleman who had just spoken. It was a shocking thing that the House should be called on to vote twenty millions in twenty minutes. He should never for his part have assented to the suggestion of the First Lord of the Treasury, were it not that he believed that there could not have been full, ample, and deliberate discussion of such a gigantic scheme, if the debate went over to Saturday, and was, as proposed, closured on Saturday night. It was because he believed that the House and the country would have a better opportunity of considering the scheme in all its details of policy and finance that the First Lord of the Treasury would keep the understanding arrived at in its spirit as well as in its letter, that the subsequent discussion would be free and exhaustive, and that it would not be taken out of the twenty-three days for Supply, that he assented to the right hon. Gentleman's proposition.

Sir J. FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.) said that the hon. and gallant Gentleman the Member for Forfar stated that the Government proposed to have three army corps ready to go abroad at a moment's notice, but as a matter of fact they would be no more ready to go abroad than the French army corps, which would have to wait until their reserves were called up.

Captain SINCLAIR said the right hon. Gentleman was quite right. He wished also to be permitted to say, as his previous remarks might have appeared ungracious, that he quite recognised that the First Lord of the Treasury had done everything in his power to secure a full discussion of the scheme.

Mr. ASQUITH (Fifeshire, E.): I only want to have it made clear that if, in accordance with the understanding arrived at, we pass this Vote, we do not in the least degree prejudice our right to discuss the whole scheme and subsidiary matters after Easter.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) said he did not intend at all to break the arrangement which had been entered into, but there was one point which he should like made clear. They were asked to vote money at the rate of a million a minute, and of course it was impossible that the House of Commons should be able to consider the Vote in that time. The Leader of the House, however, stated that he was prepared to afford an opportunity for a full and free discussion of the whole question, not merely, he took it, of the general effect of the scheme, but such questions as the payment of 5s. a day to the Colonial forces and to the Yeomanry, while only 1s. 3d. per day was paid to the Regular troops. He would like to know whether the discussion would be in Government time, or in private Members' time. Private Members would not have gained anything if the Government took Tuesdays after Easter. Hon. Members were therefore entitled to know whether the discussion would be a full and free discussion, and whether it would be taken in Government time, and not in private Members' time.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I have no wish to trespass on private Members' time more than I must. The matter will be treated like the Second Reading of a Bill, and if the discussion be extended I may, of course, have to take private Members' time. With regard to subsidiary questions, there will be ample opportunity for discussing them.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee to sit again on Monday next.

SUPPLY [8th March].

Resolutions reported:—

Army (Supplementary) Estimates, 1900–1901.

1. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £3,000,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1901, for Additional Expenditure, due to the war in South Africa, in respect of the following Army Services, viz.:—

	£
Vote 6. Transport and Remounts	2,000,000
Vote 7. Provisions, Forage, and other Supplies	1,000,000
Total	£3,000,000"

ORDNANCE FACTORIES.

2. "That a Supplementary Sum, not exceeding £100, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge for the Ordnance Factories (the cost of the Productions of which will be charged to the Army, Navy, and Indian and Colonial Governments), which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1901."

Resolutions read a second time.

First Resolution :—

Motion made, and Question put, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.) said he objected to this Report being rushed through without some explanation from the noble Lord who represented the War Office. Looking through the figures during the last three or four years he saw that £8,000,000 had been wasted on horses in South Africa. When the Vote was under discussion in Committee it was indicated that stud farms were to be established in Canada and in Australia. He came from a horse-breeding county in Ireland, and they should have some explanation as to what would be done in regard to Irish horses. The Government, he believed, required 6,000 horses every year. The present system was to buy the horses from dealers at £40 apiece, and the dealers went to the farmers and bought them for £18 apiece. The Government should deal direct with the farmers. At present only horses five years old were bought, but if they wanted to encourage horse-breeding for cavalry purposes the horses should be bought from the farmers at three years old, when they were just fit to be trained to carry a man.

MR. O'MARA (Kilkenny, S.) said that one reason for the great wear and tear of the horses in South Africa was that the horses in the gun-teams were too few in number. The Boers used a great many more horses in their gun-teams. The present method of buying horses was bad. The Government employed dealers, and there were often two or three middlemen between the Government and the horse breeder. He knew of a case where a dealer who had an order from the War Office came to a town in Ireland and bought old, weedy, and broken-down animals at £18 each, and sent them over to the War Office, who accepted them at £35 each. He was told of one dealer who had bought 250 horses in one day, and netted a profit out of the Government of £5,000. This was sheer waste of the taxpayers' money. The system of the War Office was unbusinesslike, and would bring any shopkeeper into bankruptcy. He could not understand why it was allowed to continue, and he hoped an assurance would be given that that state of matters would be remedied. Another point he had not an opportunity of bringing before the House in Committee was the system of buying horses under martial law in Cape Colony. Under the autocratic rule of martial law farmers were, he believed, forced to make sales of their horses, and he thought the House should exercise its power of insisting that these sales were made on a fair basis. The principle of compulsory sale, which they in Ireland wanted to apply to land, was applied to horses in Cape Colony, and for the honour of the House and of the country they ought to be careful how the prices of these horses were arranged. The House should carefully examine the enormous amounts asked for as Supplementary Estimates, and he trusted some further details would be given as to how the money had been spent.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.) protested against the way in which the Estimates were put forward. It was almost impossible to discover which Vote was to be discussed, and without an actuarial training it was practically hopeless to attempt to arrive at a fair estimate of the amount of the excess asked for from the Papers supplied. The original Estimate of £61,499,000 had now swollen to the enormous total of £91,999,000. Such figures were staggering, and the House had no guarantee that before the end of the financial year further Supplementary Estimates would not be brought forward. The Government had frequently been pressed for particulars as to the prices paid for horses and forage. All descriptions of horses were lumped together, so that it could not be shown how small a number of Irish horses had been bought. While orders were given that Ireland should be treated very charily in the matter, Continental countries were being scoured from end to end for horses. When the quality and condition of the Argentine horses were borne in mind, it was no wonder there had been so much delay and disaster in connection with the transport service in South Africa. The matter as regarded Ireland was even more serious in the question of forage. It seemed inconceivable that the Government should be sending to all parts of the world for forage, and yet pass over the almost unlimited supplies of sweet meadow hay which could be obtained in Ireland. With regard to meat for the troops it was the same. Enormous quantities of foreign meat were purchased for the Army by the War Office, the quality of which was decidedly inferior to either Irish or Scotch meat, and all for a trifling saving which did not amount to more than a halfpenny or three-farthings in the pound. The War Office had, wherever they could, given a preference to foreign meat. It was well known that good Scotch or Irish meat was in the end cheaper, because it was more nutritious, and a certain quantity of it went much farther than foreign meat.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall) called attention to the great expenditure on horses. This was a most remarkable lesson taught by the history of this war. He believed that over £8,000,000 had been spent on horses going to the war. What did that mean? It meant that if £500,000 had been spent in the earlier stages of the war, or before the war began, this vast expenditure would not have been necessary.

LORD STANLEY, in replying to the questions with respect to the purchase of horses said that, in addition to being officially interested, he was very much personally interested in this matter. As far as possible he wished to see not only in Ireland, but in England and Scotland, the War Office buyers brought more in contact with private breeders. At the same time hon. Members would understand that it was very difficult for any buyer to go about the various districts to see one or two horses. That was almost impossible. He hoped that some scheme might be arranged whereby the vendors might be brought together. If that could be done, he would endeavour to get the War Office buyers to go to them. How that was to be done was still under consideration, but he hoped they would come to some satisfactory conclusion. He was afraid that, personally, he could not agree with the hon. Member who asked about the three-year-old horses. He knew that it would be much better for a seller to get the price of a five-year-old for a three-year-old. With regard to the horses bought under martial law, instructions had been given to pay the fair market value for the horses. The remark had been made that there had been corruption. It was easy to make the suggestion of corruption, but it was very difficult to prove it. [AN HON. MEMBER: How many actions are pending for fraud?] He could not answer that question, but if the hon. Member would bring before him any case in which he had satisfied himself that there had been fraud, he would be only too glad to take any action that lay in his power. With regard to the question of home-fed meat, which had been brought up by the hon. Member for North Cork, he could not give any facts at the present moment The whole thing was being considered, not with the view of going against the hon. Member's wish but in order, as far as possible, to meet the views of gentlemen on both sides of the House, that we should buy the meat of our own producers, instead of that of foreign producers.

*MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick) said he found from the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General that on 27th October, 1899, a contract was entered into with the South African Cold Storage Company to supply fresh meat for the troops at 11d. per pound, but two-thirds of the supply was frozen meat. The hon. Member could say as an expert that 11d. per pound for frozen meat was a famine price. In consequence of this infraction of contract, it appeared from the War Office Papers that the sum of £27,000 was to be refunded by the Company. He wanted to know if that money had been refunded to the War Office. Here was a company which had fraudulently appropriated that money, and when he called attention to the matter on a former occasion he did not receive any definite assurance as to the money. Frozen meat was supplied by the same firm to the troops in Cape Town at 5¾d. per pound, while 11d. was paid for the same class of meat to feed the English troops in the field. The Irish Cattle Trades and Stockowners Association, of which he was president, had been in communication with the War Office on this subject for many years, and it was only very lately that a supply of live cattle had been given in the Curragh. There was this extraordinary state of things, that Ireland was a meat-producing and exporting country, and yet in almost every barracks in the land frozen meat was supplied to the men. This was really a matter of vast importance, and in the stand he was taking he was representing not only the tenant farmers but also the landlords. Moreover, the larger portion of the forage for the horses in Ireland consisted of foreign hay and Russian oats, and it was nothing less than a scandal that such a system should be perpetuated in an agricultural country like Ireland. The Government, through the War Office, was absolutely boycotting the Irish producer, and the question undoubtedly demanded the serious consideration of all who had the welfare of the community at heart.

Mr. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs) considered the frozen meat contract to which reference had been made was an instance of the extraordinary business methods of the War Office, and he asked the noble Lord whether he was satisfied that, under the circumstances, the deduction of twopence in the pound was adequate. The contract was undoubtedly a live meat contract, expressly providing for drovers and butchers to accompany the animals with the troops, and yet three-fourths of the meat supplied was refrigerated meat. Under the circumstances he thought the War Office had a right to a considerably larger deduction. He further asked to what extent the Army Veterinary Department had been improved. The enormous wastage of horses in South Africa had been largely due to the undermanning of the Veterinary Department. The matter had been treated too much from the £ s. d. point of view. Important as might be that standpoint, there was another the House should bear in mind—namely, the horrible sufferings endured by the wretched animals. No one with a grain of sympathy for animals could have read the heartrending accounts of the terrible treatment—probably unavoidable under the circumstances—to which animals had been subjected in South Africa without feeling a great amount of regret that it had not been possible to avoid or minimise it to a greater extent. Another point was that hitherto when horses had been landed at Cape Town they had been at once hurried up in droves to the front instead of being given an interval for exercise and so on after the voyage to get them into fit condition for their work. Had that mistaken policy now been changed? A further question was with regard to the purchase of horses and the prices at which the animals had been bought. He remembered riding out a considerable distance with some friends in the Argentine, and he was told that the value of the horses they rode was about 75s. His informant was a German, and he thought perhaps he was imposing upon his credulity, but he afterwards made inquiries and found that the statement was perfectly correct. One of those horses had been ridden by the President of the Argentine Republic himself. He mentioned these facts to show that the price of horses in the Argentine was extremely low. He knew that the quality was poor, but suggestions had been made that a higher price had been paid than ought to have been paid. In the Argentine you could buy as good a horse as anyone needed to ride for £10, and he trusted the noble Lord would give them a satisfactory reply in regard to the prices paid for the horses purchased in the Argentine Republic.

Colonel NOLAN said he could not understand what the object of the Government was in hiding the prices paid for those horses. He was glad to hear that the noble Lord opposite was anxious that the producer should get the profit which had hitherto been taken by the dealer. The horse fairs in Ireland were remarkably good, and the War Office ought to be supplied with a list of them and arrange for their buyers to attend.

Mr. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.) wished to have some information from the noble Lord with regard to the corn contracts. The corn produced in Great Britain and Ireland was heavier than the foreign corn, and if his information was correct the War Office had laid down a standard weight of 35 pounds to the bushel, but a corn weighing 38 pounds or 39 pounds could not be supplied at the same price. He wished to know whether the corn was tendered for at so much per quarter or so much per 100 pounds. He wished the Irish producer in this matter to be placed on an equal footing with the foreigner. For the last two years the War Office had been absolutely blind to their own interest in refusing to give this information. They not only gave the preference to the foreigner, but they were also giving him an unfair advantage over the English and the Irish producers.

Mr. O'SHEE (Waterford, W.) said he understood that the average price the dealers had been paying for horses in Ireland was £27, and the average price the dealer received was £35. He did not see why the Government should pursue such a system. He understood from a statement made by the noble Lord that the number of horses purchased direct from the producer was about 200, while the number purchased from dealers was 5,300. It was an extraordinary thing that, although they had many fairs in Ireland, the Government had not been able to purchase directly more than 200 horses. There was really no excuse for not going direct to the farmers of Ireland to purchase these horses and give them something like the price which had been paid to the dealers. He considered that two millions was a very extravagant sum to ask for remounts. Something like 100,000 horses and mules had been sent to South Africa, and money had been wasted in the Argentine Republic and other places which ought now to be available for remounts.

Lord STANLEY said that the War Office would endeavour to bring buyers and breeders of horses together. As to the 2d. per pound on the foreign meat contract, mentioned by the hon. Member for the St. Patrick Division of Dublin, that would be deducted at once. Regarding the question of the tax on incoming stock, that had never been placed on the contract. It was not imposed in the case referred to, nor in any other case, but he confessed the whole matter was unsatisfactory, and he would look into it.

Mr. FIELD asked if the noble Lord would give a guarantee as to the supply of Canadian meat.

Lord STANLEY said he could not give a guarantee, but he would do his best in the matter.

Mr. FLAVIN asked if the noble Lord could say anything about the corn question.

Lord STANLEY said he could not answer that at present, but he would endeavour as far as possible to meet the views of the hon. Member.

Mr. FLAVIN: Will the noble Lord send me an answer by letter?

Lord STANLEY: Yes, Sir.

Mr. DUFFY (Galway, S.) said he desired to ask the noble Lord a question which affected the constituency he had the honour to represent, it being a horse-breeding district. He wished to know if it was the intention of the Government to establish studs for the breeding of horses in Ireland.

*Mr. SPEAKER: That question cannot be discussed on this Vote.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 135; Noes, 43. (Division List No. 67.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Bagot, Capt. J. FitzRoy
Bain, Col. James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Man.)
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.

Beach,Rt.Hn.SirM.H.(Bristol
Bignold, Arthur
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Caldwell, James
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbys.
Cecil,Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,J Austen(Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dickson, Charles Scott
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford,SirWilliam Theodore
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gibbs,Hon.Vicary(St.Albans)
Godson, Sir Augustus Fred
Gordon, Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Goschen, Hn. George Joachim
Graham, Henry Robert
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hamilton,Rt.Hn.Ld.G.(Midx
HamiltonMarq.of(L'nd'nderry
Hanbury,Rt.Hon.RobertWm.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris,F.Leverton(Tynem'th.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne, Rt.Hon.CharlesSeale-
Heath,James(Staffords,N.W.)
Hope,J.F(Sheffield,Brightside
Howard, Capt. J. (Faversham)
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kenyon,Hn.Geo.T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop
Keswick, William
Lambton,Hon.Frederick Wm.
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower,FrederickN.S.
Levy, Maurice
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Bristol,S
Lowther, C. (Cumb.,Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col.Francis(Lowestoft)
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W. G. E.
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Chas. (Liverpool)
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Milner,Rt.Hn.SirFrederickG.
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
More,Robt.Jasper(Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon.Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray,RtHn AGraham(Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Priestley, Arthur
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reckitt, Harold James
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley, Hn.M.W.(Stalybridge
Ritchie, Rt Hon. Chas. T.
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith,AbelH.(Hertford, East)
Smith,James Parker(Lanarks.
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,RtHn.JG.(Oxf'dUniv.
Thomson, F. W.(York,W.R)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw.Murray
Tufnell, Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Wason,John Cathcart(Orkney
Webb, Colonel William Geo.
Weir, James Galloway
Welby,Lt.-Col.ACE(Taunton
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Wilson,A.Stanley(York,E.R.)
Wortley,Rt.Hon. C.B.Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham,William(Cork,N.E.
Ambrose, Robert
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Boland, John
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Delany, William
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Hammond, John
Hayden, John Patrick
Healy, Timothy Michael
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Leamy, Edmund
Lundon, W.
Mooney, John J.
Murphy, J.
Nolan,Col.JohnP. (Galway,N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipper'yMid.
O'Donnell, John (Mayo S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly,James(RoscommonN.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Reddy, M.
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roche, John
Sullivan, Donal
Thompson,E.C.(Monaghan,N.
Tully, Jasper

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Captain Donelan and Mr.
Patrick O'Brien.

Second Resolution agreed to.

Adjourned at half after One of the clock till Monday next.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 18*th March*, 1901.

LORD HENLEY.

Report made from the Lord Chancellor that the right of Frederic Henley, Baron Henley, to vote at the elections of Representative Peers for Ireland has been established to the satisfaction of the Lord Chancellor; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

TOOK THE OATH.

The Lord Stanley of Alderley took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

NOTTINGHAM CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

The CHAIRMAN of COMMITTEES informed the House that the promoters do not intend to proceed further with the Bill; Order for the Second Reading to-morrow discharged; ordered, that the Bill be not further proceeded with.

SOUTH LANCASHIRE TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.].

Read 2^a.

OTLEY GAS BILL [H.L.].

COWES FERRY BILL [H.L.].

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD URBAN DISTRICT (WATER) BILL [H.L.].

CHESTER CORPORATION TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.].

ALFRETON GAS BILL [H.L.].

EASTON AND CHURCH HOPE RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

LYNTON AND BARNSTAPLE RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

DOVER GAS BILL [H.L.].

DONCASTER TITHE TRUST BILL [H.L.].

Committed.

HARROGATE CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

MERSEY DOCKS AND HARBOUR BOARD (CANADA DOCK WORKS, ETC.) BILL [H.L.].

TYNESIDE TRAMWAYS AND TRAMROADS BILL [H.L.].

Committed: The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

CHARING CROSS, EUSTON, AND HAMPSTEAD RAILWAY (No. 1) BILL [H.L.].

CHARING CROSS, EUSTON, AND HAMPSTEAD RAILWAY (No. 2) BILL [H.L.].

BROMPTON AND PICCADILLY CIRCUS RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

SOUTH WESTERN AND ISLE OF WIGHT JUNCTION RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

BIRMINGHAM (CITY) TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.].

WIGAN CORPORATION TRAMWAYS, ETC., BILL [H.L.].

Committed: The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

PRIVATE BILLS—AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The Earl of MORLEY): The first Amendment to the Standing Orders relates to the giving of a *locus standi*, or rather more than a *locus standi*, in the case of Tramway Bills to county councils where their roads, or roads to which they contribute, are affected. The Amendment was suggested to me by the County Councils Association, and, as it seemed a fair proposal, I undertook to place it before your Lordships at the earliest possible moment. Where a local authority is constructing tramways to go beyond the limits of its district, at present the position of those tramways is regulated by the Tramways Act of 1870, and the authority over whose roads the tramway is constructed has the power of purchasing it at the end of twenty-one years if the House thinks fit; but in this and in many other cases the Tramways Act, 1870, is very much out of date. Tramways at the time that Act was passed were small horse tramways, very much cheaper in construction than they are now, and probably the twenty-one years during which they were allowed to run without power of purchase coming into effect was ample, but at the present time it is an every-day occurrence, with—and only with—the concurrence of the local authorities, for the twenty-one years to be considerably extended. Therefore, the Standing Order as it now exists is really almost inoperative, and I venture to ask your Lordships to substitute the period of forty-two years for twenty-one years. It will be clear to the House that the period may be fixed, if the Committee think fit, at less than twenty-one years; but this Amendment will give them the opportunity, if they deem it necessary, of extending it beyond that time. I had intended moving another Amendment of the Standing Orders to-day, relating to the preliminary consents of local authorities whose roads are to be used for the tramway; but I have undertaken to postpone that Amendment at the request of the municipalities, in order that they may consider the question. Far from wishing to take any of these authorities by surprise, I am anxious that the question should be thoroughly considered. I beg to move the Amendment standing in my name.

Moved, "That the Standing Orders be amended as follows:—

NOTE.—The words within brackets are to be omitted, and the words printed in *Italics* are to be inserted.

105*d*. THE council of any administrative county alleging in their petition that such administrative county, or any part thereof, may be injuriously affected–

(*A*) By the provisions of any Bill relating to the water supply of any town or district, whether situate within or without such county; *or*

(*B*) *By the provisions of any Bill proposing to authorise the construction or reconstruction of any tramway along any main road, or along any other road to the maintenance and repair of which the County Council contributes, within the administrative county* shall be entitled to be heard against such Bill.

133. No power shall be given to any local authority to construct, acquire, take on lease, or work any tramway, or portion of tramway, beyond the limits of their district, unless such tramway, or portion of tramway, is in connection with a tramway belonging to, or authorised to be constructed, acquired, or worked by the local authority, and unless the Committee on the Bill shall determine that, having regard to the special local circumstances, such construction, acquisition, taking on lease, or working ought to be sanctioned.

In every case in which the Committee shall so determine, they shall specify what portion of the tramway will be situate beyond the district of the local authority to which the power of construction, acquisition, or taking on lease is given, and shall insert a clause for the protection of the local authority of the district in which such tramway or portion of tramway will be situate in the terms *mutatis mutandis* of Section 43 of the Tramways Act, 1870, except that the Committee may, if they think fit in the special circumstances of the case, substitute *a period not exceeding forty-two years for the period of twenty-one years* [shorter periods for the peri mentioned in that section."

—(*The Chairman of Committees.*)

Agreed to: Standing Orders amended accordingly, and to be printed as amended. (No. 20.)

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ARMY.

Return of Military Forces in South Africa (Over-sea Colonial Contingents).

COLONIES (ANNUAL).

Reports for 1899–1900—

No. 317. Jamaica.
No. 318. British Guiana.

GOLD COAST.

Correspondence relating to the Ashanti War, 1900.

EMIGRATION.

Report on the Emigrants' Information Office, for the year ended 31st December, 1900.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

PETITION.

INTOXICATING LIQUORS.

Petition against the sale of, on Sundays, of the inhabitants of Guildford; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

LICENSING SESSIONS BILL—HABITUAL DRUNKARDS BILL—EXPLANATION.

The Lord Bishop of WINCHESTER: My Lords, may I trespass on the indulgence of the House to make a statement as to what we propose to do in regard to these two Bills, which passed a Second Reading the other night? Both Bills are down for Committee stage on Thursday next, but after consulting with those who are interested in the matter, and bearing in mind the strong and hopeful words which were used by the representative of His Majesty's Government, we propose not to take the Committee stage till after Easter.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—INQUIRY INTO CONDUCT AND OPERATIONS.

Lord SANDHURST: My Lords, I beg to ask His Majesty's Government whether they have come to any decision as to the inquiry into the operations in South Africa referred to in the speech of the Lord President on Tuesday, 5th March; and, if so, what form it will take, and into what subjects will investigation be held. My question is based on some remarks which fell from the noble Duke the Lord President of the Council in debate about a fortnight ago. The noble Duke said—

> "The inquiry which has been suggested, and which has been promised by the Government, into the conduct of the war and operations in South Africa, and which, I trust, will take place when the war is concluded, will meet the case."

If that statement had been made by any other Minister, with the exception of one or two, I am not quite certain that it would so much have attracted my attention, but combined with the office of Lord President the noble Duke holds the office of President of the Committee on National Defence, and I therefore considered that I had a right to assume that that sentence was spoken advisedly, and not dropped haphazard. But I have another authority to cite. Mr. Balfour was questioned in the other House, the principal part of the question referring to the scope and the time of such an inquiry into the conduct of the war. The First Lord of the Treasury replied—

> "As the hon. Member is aware, we promised a general inquiry. The scope and duration of that inquiry must depend on the discretion and the competence of the body to whom the inquiry is entrusted. The Government can lay down no limitation."

He did not discourage the idea that the inquiry contemplated would be general in its character. I cannot disguise the fact that I view a general inquiry of the nature which I understood to be in the mind of the noble Duke with the greatest possible apprehension. I do not understand from what point the investigations are to commence, what field those investigations are to cover, or how any reference to cover the whole ground is to be framed. It appears to me that it will most likely be a roving Commission of unlimited scope and indefinite duration. If any practical and useful results are to be reached the reference to the Commission should be precise, and if the inquiry is unduly protracted public interest in it will wane and cease. If there is to be a general inquiry into the conduct of the war, will it be made another battle-ground for those regrettable incidents of the past fortnight, on which every Member of the House must look back with considerable pain? Surely we have had enough of these differences.

Setting aside differences of opinion between Secretary of State and Commander-in-Chief and differences which, no doubt, prevail between generals, there are episodes of the war which have deeply stirred the public mind. Are these to be paraded again before a Committee of non-experts? Are the names of gallant and historical regiments to be dragged through the mire, together with the names of irregular corps no less gallant? Are the reputations of gallant officers and men to be torn to shreds for the amusement of cynically delighted Europe? We must remember that, amid all this questioning and cross-questioning, the deeds of gallantry of which we are so proud will for the moment fall into the background. One result of such an inquiry must be to attribute blame somewhere, but it will be extremely difficult to get satisfactory evidence. I have heard it frequently stated that it is difficult to get junior officers to give evidence against senior officers, or even to give adverse criticism as to their action, and a reason that has been often urged is that these young men are afraid of prejudicing their prospects and careers. I admit that they may be true to a certain degree and in certain instances, but I think it is only a portion, and a very small portion, of the truth. The real reason why young men are averse to giving evidence against their seniors I believe to be this—they are too loyal in the first place, and, in the second, they are too brave. They are too loyal to the regiments to which they deem it a high honour to belong to give evidence which would incriminate their seniors, and they are too brave to do other than allow blame to rest on their own shoulders rather than incriminate, as it were, the rank and file. Again, many of the officers who took part in the various operations, and who might have given valuable evidence, are beyond the reach of any Committee. In the last stands before surrenders have taken place many have yielded up their lives, and a great many more have fallen victims in hospital to wounds or disease which were the result of their heroism.

I cannot reconcile myself to the idea that a large Committee composed of Members of both Houses, with expert Members added, would be the body best calculated to obtain the information desired. I do not pretend to claim any monopoly of the desire to uphold the honour of the Army generally. Noble Lords opposite are as jealous of that honour as we on this side are. But I fear that a long general inquiry will bring about very undesirable results with no corresponding advantage. I quite agree that there should be an inquiry or series of inquiries, each with a definite reference. On first taking office the present Secretary of State for War created an extremely important Committee to examine into the internal working of the War Office, and he put at the head of that Committee probably the very best man he could have found for the purpose. That was a very wise step to have taken. In the course of his recent speech, which I am sure your Lordships have read with great admiration, Mr. Brodrick pointed out that he had already instituted inquiries into certain departments of the War Office, such as artillery and guns, transport, education of officers, commissariat, and the purchase of stores, and I think inquiries of this nature would be better than putting the whole of these subjects into a general reference. At any rate, there would be finality in their proceedings, and they would be less likely to be the hunting-grounds of theorists and faddists. With regard to hospitals, we have had no information as to the further inquiry which was suggested in Part IV. of the Hospital Commission's Report. Perhaps the noble Duke, when he replies, will make some statement on that point.

What we require is an inquiry into the system of administration, and not into incidents. If, on the one hand, officers have been known to have misconducted themselves, either in the field or elsewhere, there is an authority to deal with them; if, on the other hand, there has been rascality or fraud in connection with the purchase of stores, the Secretary of State can find some means of bringing the offenders to justice, or of re-organising his Department so that in future such objectionable practices may be prevented. I have given some reasons why I object to the general roving inquiry which appears to be in the mind of His Majesty's Government. The Roebuck Committee, which was appointed to inquire into the Crimean War, in the last paragraph but one of its Report, said—

> "The complicated nature of the inquiry, the variety of subjects investigated, the frequent inconsistency and contrariety of the evidence render it no easy task to present a clear, definite, and just exposition of the matters submitted to your Committee. The difficulty of the task has been enhanced by the impossibility of summoning some persons as witnesses who might have furnished important information. From the same cause some persons are left under imputations in regard to which your Committee regret that they can pronounce no conclusive opinion. The fulness of the inquiry has been restricted by considerations of State, so that at the outset of this Report your Committee must admit that they have been compelled to end an inquiry which they have been unable satisfactorily to complete."

If there is a roving inquiry into the conduct of the South African War it is probable that some similar paragraph will adorn the conclusion of its Report. I should very much regret if the Government have definitely determined on this roving inquiry; if, on the other hand, they have not done so, perhaps it is not too late to reconsider the matter.

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Duke of DEVONSHIRE): My Lords, I was not aware that the noble Lord in putting this question would enter so fully into the character of and the possible objections to the promised inquiry. The subject has been referred to several times in the other House, and I do not think I have much to add to what has been said by the representatives of the Government in that House. It has, no doubt, been promised on more than one occasion that, at the conclusion of the war, an inquiry would be held. This was promised by the Government at the instance of several prominent members of the Opposition. The only definite thing which up to the present time has been said on the subject of this inquiry is, that it cannot be held until the conclusion of the war—at all events, until the war has substantially concluded—and that it is desirable that it should be held as soon as possible after that time. It has also been said that the inquiry, if held at all, must necessarily be a wide one, and must include not only preparations for the war by the War Office and other Government Departments, but to some extent the conduct of the war. Bearing in mind the statements which have been thus made in answer to inquiries from the Opposition, I certainly referred, in the speech the other night to which the noble Lord called attention, to the inquiry as one which would probably enable such questions as have been raised here in the course of certain discussions last week to form part of the subject of inquiry by a Commission.

I do not feel at all disposed to deny that there is a good deal of force in some of the criticisms which have been made by the noble Lord upon the probable effects of the inquiry, which has been contemplated as a very wide one. But until the time has arrived which has been indicated—namely, the conclusion of the war—I do not think it is possible to discuss with advantage what is to be the form which this inquiry will take or to state definitely into what subjects investigation will be held. The noble Lord will probably remember that on one of those occasions when the subject was discussed in another place an interesting discussion took place on certain words which were used either by the Secretary for War or the First Lord of the Treasury—namely, that the Government had promised an inquiry if it should be asked for. A discussion ensued upon the question of what was the binding force of the promise if its fulfilment should not be asked for; and it appears to me the first thing which the noble Lord opposite has to do is to impress upon his own friends the undesirable nature of the inquiry which we, at all events, were under the impression they desired to press for. All I can say at present is that, whatever in the nature of an inquiry we have promised or pledged ourselves to, we feel bound to grant it unless it should appear that the Opposition as well as ourselves are convinced that such an inquiry would not be in the public interests. It is extremely probable that there may be great advantage in some limitation of the inquiry in the direction suggested. But until the time has come which we have indicated as the earliest stage at which an inquiry can be commenced, I feel it impossible for us to state definitely the form the inquiry will take, or the subjects which it will embrace. The suggestions that the noble Lord made to the House in the course of his very temperate remarks, are most worthy of consideration. We are not at all desirous of entering upon a large roving and random inquiry, which probably might end with no more satisfactory results than the Committee to which the noble Lord called attention just now. I do not wish to enter further into the subject except to say that, before the Committee or Commission is appointed and the scope of its investigations is decided upon, both this House and the other House of Parliament will have an opportunity of expressing an opinion on the subject.

EARL SPENCER: My Lords, I do not wish to enter at length into this subject, but the noble Duke has made some remarks which I should like to make a comment or two upon. The noble Duke said he believed that the promise of an inquiry was made at the request of the Opposition.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of SALISBURY): Under pressure from them.

EARL SPENCER: I am not sure that it was not the noble Marquess himself who originally promised the inquiry.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: I should be very glad to have a reference to the occasion when I promised it.

EARL SPENCER: That has certainly been stated. Apparently the noble Marquess denies it. At any rate, on more than one occasion during the unfortunate discussions on the hustings when inquiries were made by some who had every knowledge of the subject the answer was, "We cannot answer that now because an inquiry is to take place." No less a person than the present Secretary of State for War, speaking at Bramley, on 29th August, in answer to some criticisms made by a very gallant friend of mine, Captain Lambton, who was at that time standing for a constituency, apparently shielded himself behind the promise of an inquiry. Captain Lambton had criticised pretty severely the armaments of the artillery in the field, and this is what Mr. Brodrick said—

> "Captain Lambton knew that the responsibility of a Ministry for ordering and sending out certain types of guns must be weighed by the advice they received from their military advisers; and, pending the inquiry which had been promised into the conduct of the war, his hands were tied in arguing the question with Captain Lambton."

I am glad to hear that the Government intend to hold an inquiry, but I think there is a great deal in what my noble friend has said as to the danger of having a roving inquiry, which may introduce great procrastination. We all hope that many of the topics of inquiry have been already taken in hand by the War Office and are being dealt with. I could instance several cases that have come before me where a great lapse has taken place in dealing with such matters as the arming of the Volunteers who went out to the war, and so on. We had the other night a discussion on hospital administration, but we do not know whether any active steps have been taken. I sincerely hope that the inquiry will be made in the form most likely to lead to practical results, and that it will not be made an excuse for procrastination in dealing with many matters which call for immediate improvement.

THE EARL OF MORLEY: My Lords, I confess I was rather puzzled, from the speech of the noble Earl, to exactly understand his point. I only rise to express my hearty concurrence in what has fallen from the noble Lord who originated the discussion. It is very desirable to consider the matter carefully and earnestly before any general inquiry into what the noble Duke called the conduct of the war is entered upon. All the teaching of history is that where there is an inquiry there must be a definite aim, without which all such inquiries have been absolutely futile and in many cases dangerous and injurious. Is it proposed to inquire into every incident of the war? Would it not be well for the noble Duke to ask the Commander-in-Chief what in his opinion would be the effect on the Army of such an inquiry? Is it likely that the incidents will be fairly and adequately reported upon by a Commission or Committee, which must consist of a large number of unprofessional men who have not the knowledge which would render them competent to consider questions in all their bearings? On such questions as the provision of adequate artillery, transport, or hospitals, an inquiry is not merely useful, but essential. I deprecate, however, in the strongest manner such a general inquiry as the noble Duke seems to foreshadow.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: My Lords, I think the noble Earl the Chairman of Committees was a little hard on my noble friend behind me. I listened carefully to Lord Spencer's speech, and I am confident his meaning was this—that he was anxious that an inquiry should take place. He did not wish the Government to avoid an inquiry, but I think he showed most clearly that his desire was that the inquiry should be directed to special objects. Lord Spencer thoroughly agrees that it is most undesirable that questions of military jealousy should be raked up before such a Committee. What we want is an inquiry into those particular matters from which real lessons can be learned. There is no doubt that stores, men, and guns were conveyed from this country in abundance to South Africa, but after they got there there was congestion, and too often they did not get to the front to be used against the enemy when they were required. That is a matter which could be inquired into. Again, there is the question of the hospitals, and also the question of the treatment of our horses in South Africa. The point we insist upon is that the Government is bound to hold an inquiry, and that it should be so contracted and so limited as to produce the greatest amount of service.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: The noble Earl opposite referred to me in a passing observation which makes it desirable that I should say one or two words. I think he is mistaken in thinking that I have ever promised an inquiry. All I have done has been to point out that inquiry had been already promised and that anything that has to be considered had better be reserved for that inquiry. I think we are deceiving ourselves in the matter of this inquiry. The Government have never been in favour of it, but in the position they have held they could not, without exposing the Army to undue suspicion, refuse an inquiry if it was demanded. If an inquiry is demanded, undoubtedly it must be held; but do not imagine that it can be an anodyne, an impersonal inquiry. The things in which people are interested are precisely the personal matters. They wish to know distinctly for each disaster or each shortcoming in the war who is to blame. I do not think myself that it is desirable to know who is to blame. I would rather leave that buried in obscurity. If anything at all is to be examined into fully, you cannot try to shove off disagreeable suspicion by allowing the blame to rest on one man or one organisation or one set of officers, because you have not ventured to go deeply into the merits of the case, which you are aware would bring very different revelations to light. It is impossible that you can enter into a just, full, and equitable inquiry without a renewal of that species of discussion of which we have had some examples in this House. I do not think we any of us desire that it should be raised again. We regret very much that it was raised, and we think a mistake was committed in doing so. But once it is raised, naturally you must do justice to the people involved; you must fearlessly face the truth and record everything that you may find. I do not look forward with complacency to such an inquiry. I think it was forced upon us by observations made during a critical period of the war; and with the example before us of the Crimean War inquiry, which produced in its inception such grave results, and which issued in the most ridiculous fiasco, I think we should take warning and should not, without very imperious considerations, expose the working of the Army to unjust and unsympathetic criticism from enemies all over the world.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: I have come down with a perfectly open mind to listen to this discussion. I thought from the tone of the question of my noble friend behind me that he was about to impress upon the Government the necessity of fulfilling the pledge given by the noble Duke opposite to hold a general inquiry into the war. But my noble friend turned out to be a Balaam. He spoke on totally different lines, solemnly warning the Government of the injury that would be inflicted upon the Army and the country by an inquiry which I think he must have known the Government were not too anxious to carry out. Then we come to the noble Duke. He certainly showed a very limited enthusiasm for the inquiry he is supposed to have promised.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I did not promise it. I only referred to it as promised.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: Yours was the last promise.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I did not promise it. I only referred to an inquiry which by common knowledge was promised.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: No; it is not a matter of common knowledge. My noble friend behind me made a promise by the noble Duke, or the reiteration of a promise by the noble Duke, or the citation of a promise by the noble Duke, the ground of putting this question. The noble Duke denies he made a promise and quotes a previous promise. Then we come to the noble Marquess opposite. He also denies that he ever made a promise. Then we come to Earl Spencer, who has traced the promise back as far as a speech made by the then Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs at a rural meeting in the Parliamentary recess, and the Under Secretary then treated it as a binding promise on the Government. All I want to know is this, When was the promise given, and by whom? The noble Duke the Lord President of the Council and the Chairman of the National Defence Committee washes his hands of it. The Prime Minister knows nothing about it. He seems to suggest that it was given some day in the Dark Ages. The eminent men on both front benches seem to be ignorant of the promise. And the only question I have to risen to ask is, When and by whom was the promise given?

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: Perhaps we may have a preliminary Commission to inquire when the promise was given.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: So long as I am not asked to serve on it, I do not mind.†

PUBLIC LIBRARIES BILL [H.L.].

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

***LORD WINDSOR**: My Lords, I shall trouble the House with very few words in moving the Second Reading of this Bill. I have introduced it in exactly the same form as it left your Lordships' House last year, after passing all its stages. I do not mean that I have a right to suppose that every clause in the Bill is accepted in all parts of the House, for I was warned last year by my noble and learned friend on the Woolsack that the clause dealing with the law of libel would probably have something more said about it. But I understand that the noble and learned Lord does not propose to raise any objection to the Second Reading of the Bill to-day. I will, therefore, reserve my defence of this clause till the Committee stage. It has been said that this Bill is the outcome of the efforts of amateur legislators, and that it is a trivial interference with the present Public Libraries Acts. I can assure your Lordships that I have better grounds than that for asking the House to pass the Second Reading of this Bill. The Bill has been framed by the Libraries Association and those interested in libraries, after communication with librarians and library authorities all over the United Kingdom, with the object of making the Libraries Act more practical and more workable.

At the present moment library authorities are able to make regulations, but they have no power to enforce them, and one of the objects of this Bill is to take a leaf out of the Public Libraries (Scotland) Act, 1887, and to enable library authorities in England and Ireland to make bye-laws which they can enforce. The Bill also effects another small improvement in the law with regard to museums under the Public Libraries Acts. At present it is possible for a museum to be provided under those Acts, and it is also possible for a museum to be provided by the adoption of the Museums and Gymnasiums Act, 1891. In some cases the museum has been provided under the Public Libraries Acts, and it often happens that the same district desires afterwards to provide a public library. They are then obliged to keep up both institutions by means of the limited rate allowed under the Public Libraries Acts. This Bill seeks to enable the district, after a museum has been provided under the Public Libraries Acts, to adopt the Museums and Gymnasiums Act, 1891, which shall apply to the museum as if it has been provided under that Act. In that way the library rate is reduced so far as the museum is concerned, and is thereby able to be applied solely for the purpose of keeping up the public library.

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† The earliest reference to any kind of inquiry into the war is in observations of Lord Salisbury on the 30th January, 1900, reported in *The Parliamentary Debates*, Fourth Series, Vol. lxxviii., pages 29–30.

I have received a communication from the Scottish Office requesting me to exclude Scotland from the Bill, but I have not been able to see my noble friend the Secretary for Scotland. If the noble Lord still thinks it necessary to cut out Scotland from the operations of the Bill, it can, of course, be done at a later stage; but I think it right to state that I have received letters from the library authorities of Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, etc., very strongly approving of the Bill. I venture to hope that I shall be able to persuade the Secretary for Scotland that the Bill can be usefully applied to Scotland. I do not think it necessary to say anything further on the present occasion.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^a."—(*Lord Windsor.*)

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (The Earl of HALSBURY): I think it right to mention that that portion of the Bill which refers to the administration of justice in respect of libraries will require careful consideration in Committee. As to the rest of the Bill I have no comments to make.

On Question, agreed to. Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

PRESENCE OF THE SOVEREIGN IN PARLIAMENT.

Commons Message considered (according to Order).

Moved, "That this House do concur in the following resolution communicated by the Commons, viz., 'That it is expedient that a Select Committee be appointed to join with a Committee of the Lords to consider the accommodation available in the House of Lords when the Sovereign is personally present in Parliament, and the advisability of substituting Westminster Hall on such an occasion for the House of Lords.'"—(*The Lord Privy Seal.*)

*THE EARL OF FEVERSHAM: My Lords, before this motion is carried I desire to make a few observations upon the subject to which it refers. I quite admit that it is only reasonable that the Members of the other House of Parliament should have adequate accommodation when they attend this House at the opening of Parliament, and I hope that this Committee when appointed, will carefully consider whether that accommodation cannot be given in this House instead of having to resort to the alternative suggestion. I believe that very adequate accommodation could be provided in this House. The members of the Privy Council, when they attend our debates, are in the habit, as your Lordships know, of standing at the foot of the Throne. I would suggest that Privy Councillors should, at the opening of Parliament, instead of standing at the foot of the Throne, occupy the galleries above and on each side of the Throne. That seems to be a very natural place for them. Then I would give the whole of the opposite end of the House to Members of the House of Commons. They would have the Bar as usual, and the space on both sides of the Bar. In addition, they could occupy the side galleries which, at the opening of Parliament, are given up to ladies, and the galleries behind the Press Gallery. I believe if that were done there would be ample accommodation for those Members of the House of Commons who desired to attend, as well as for the Privy Councillors. The rest of the House would be given up to Peers and Peeresses as now. There would be ample accommodation for them. The Diplomatic Gallery could remain as usual. I hope, therefore, that this Committee will consider whether the necessary accommodation for Members of both Houses at the opening of Parliament cannot be provided in this House instead of substituting Westminster Hall as suggested. Except for the capacity of that hall, I do not know that it can have any other advantage. It is an old, gloomy, dingy-looking place, with a heavy roof, which looks down upon the spot where the ancient Monarchy of England was despoiled and its occupant brought by cruel hands to the scaffold. Is that a proper place for the opening of Parliament? To make it suitable for such a brilliant ceremony great expense would have to be entailed, and it would have to be decorated in a manner which would ill become its architecture. Altogether, the proposal seems to me a very unwise one, and I trust that before adopting it the Committee will take into consideration whether proper accommodation cannot be provided in this Chamber.

On Question, agreed to; and a Message ordered to be sent to the Commons to acquaint them therewith.

LICENSING BOARD BILL [H.L.].

A Bill to create a new licensing authority and a board to hear licensing appeals—was presented by the Earl of Camperdown; read 1^a; and to be printed. (No. 21.)

House adjourned at half-past Five of the clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 18th March, 1901.

One other Member took and subscribed the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY BILL.

(BY ORDER.)

The following Instruction stood on the Paper in the name of Mr. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick's):—"That it be an Instruction to the Committee, that no preferential rates shall be given to foreign produce carried over the lines controlled by this Company."

*MR. SPEAKER: The Instruction which stands in the name of the hon. Member for the St. Patrick's Division of Dublin is not in order. As I said the other day, in regard to other Instructions on the same Bill, it deals with a matter which affects railways generally, and therefore it cannot be dealt with on a private Bill which does not raise the question.

The Earl of Feversham.

MR. FIELD: Of course, Sir, I do not dispute your ruling, but I wish to point out that I am prepared to furnish evidence showing that this particular railway company is acting contrary to the spirit of the Railway Act. I wish to know what opportunity will be afforded to the House to deal with this particular point.

*MR. SPEAKER: I cannot assist the hon. Member.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz.:—

Great Western Railway Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 63 COMPLIED WITH).

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 63 has been complied with, viz.:—

Cromer Water Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz.:—

Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time to-morrow.

LLANDRINDOD WELLS WATER BILL.

GOLBORNE GAS BILL.

RICHMOND GAS BILL.

STROUD GAS BILL.

Read a second time, and committed.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON, TOWCESTER, AND MIDLAND JUNCTION, EAST AND WEST JUNCTION AND EVESHAM, REDDITCH, AND STRATFORD-UPON-AVON JUNCTION RAILWAY COMPANIES BILL. (BY ORDER.)

Second Reading deferred till Tuesday, 16th April.

THAMES DEEP WATER DOCK BILL. (BY ORDER.)

Read a second time, and committed.

PAISLEY GAS PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

Read a second time and committed.

PETITIONS.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Leeds; Stalybridge; Ilkeston; Liversedge; and School Board for London; to lie upon the Table.

INHABITED HOUSE DUTY AND INCOME TAX.

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Northern and North Eastern Districts of London; and Liverpool; to lie upon the Table.

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1896.

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Bolton; Stockton; and Southborough; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Strood; Aberdeen (three); Atherton and Tyldesley; Over; Anvil Corner; Abersychan; Ashwater; Ashton-under-Lyne; Bradford (Yorks) (four); Birmingham (six); Christow; Branksome; Southwark; Birkenshaw; Cardiff; York (two); Carlisle (seven); Carron; Crediton; Ealing; Falkirk; Glossop; Grampound Road; Glossop Dale; Holsworthy; Bulwell; Low Hesket; Lewisham (two); Messingham; Marton; Newton Burgoland; Okehampton; Oswaldtwistle; Petersfield; Plymouth; Pontypool; Sheffield (ten); Salford (two); Southlands; Stonehouse; Tavistock; Black Torrington; Tyldesley (two); North Meols; Uttoxeter (two); Wadebridge; Worksop; Walworth (three); Harrogate (two); Stockton-on-Tees (three); Garndiffaith; Alloa (three); Port Glasgow; Oldham; Leek; Penrith; Kensington; Clapton; Manchester; Taunton (two); Woolwich (two); Malvern (four); Upton-on-Severn; Tenbury; Bensham; Larkhall; Durham; Edinburgh (five); Notting Hill (two); Lumphanan; Chelmsford; Broomfield; Bilbrough; Malton; Ashton-under-Lyne; Kingussie; Kennethmont; Brixham; Athlone; Kingston-upon-Hull; Partick; Whiteinch; Norton; Bowmore; Barnoldswick; Thomas Stansfield; Falkirk (two); Sandford; Northwich; Blaenavon; Nottingham; Sneinton; Liverpool (two); Cowpen; Morpeth; Bebside; Wandsworth; Newmilns; Gainsborough; Malvern Link; Worcester; Derby; Withyham; Gloucester; Crawley; Down; London; Glasgow; Mildmay Park; Sefton Park (two); Malton (three); Chelsea; Hatherleigh (two); Portsmouth (three); Tregeare; Southsea; Smethwick; Bromley (two); Appledore; Greenock (three); Rhoda Saint; Royton; Harrington; Leeds (two); Rawtenstall; Bacup; Insch; Kirkstall; Birstal; Brierfield; Colne; North Kensington; Cubitt Town; Sowerby Bridge; Milnathort; Brixham; Rye; Middleton; Rugby; and Aberdovey (five); to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Dundee; Biggar; Peterhead; Pittenweem; Anstruther Easter (two); Kilrenny (three); Ravenscraig; Denny; Kilsyth; Falkirk (two); Airth; Dumfries; Kirkcudbright; Carluke; Kirkfieldbank; Wick (two); Kirriemuir; Edinburgh (seven); Lanark; Drumlade; Port Glasgow (two); Peebles (two); Alvie; Glasgow (four); Grand Lodge of Scotland Independent Order of Good Templars; Innerleithen; Walkerburn; Auchterless; Uddingstone; Rothesay; Alva; Tillicoultry (two); Crail; Alloa (two); Larkhall; and Wishaw; to lie upon the Table.

TROUT FISHING ANNUAL CLOSE TIME (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Cupar Eden, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).

Copy presented, of Report No. 318 (British Guiana, Annual Report for 1899–1900) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EMIGRATION (COLONIES).

Copy presented, of Report on the Emigrants' Information Office for the year ended 31st December, 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY.

Copy presented, of Return of Military Forces in South Africa (Oversea Colonial Contingents) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, No. 2561 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

POLICE SUPERANNUATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Ordered, That the Report and Minutes of Evidence of the Select Committee on the Police (Scotland) Bill of Session 1890 be referred to the Select Committee on the Police Superannuation (Scotland) Bill.—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—YEOMEN SETTLERS.

MR. THOMAS DEWAR (Tower Hamlets, St. George's): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Government has yet considered how far it will assist the passages of wives and families of Yeomen who care to settle in our new colonies in South Africa at the expiration of their term of enlistment; and, if so, can he make any communication to the House on this matter.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): I am not yet in a position to make any statement upon the matter.

THE SURRENDER OF HELVETIA.

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been drawn to the insinuation of cowardice made against the officer in command of the post at Helvetia captured by the Boers on the 31st December, when that officer was severely wounded in the fight; and whether, in consequence of the distress caused to the relatives of the officer by these insinuations, he will state the facts relating to that surrender.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): As a general court-martial will be held on the officer in command at Helvetia as soon as he is reported fit, I am not in a position to make any statement of facts in reply to the question.

MR. LAMBERT: Is it not the case that this officer was severely wounded before the surrender took place?

MR. BRODRICK: I have no doubt it was so, but I must not go into the facts.

ALLEGED SHOOTING OF BRITISH SUBJECTS BY COMMANDANT DELAREY.

MR. MACONOCHIE (Aberdeenshire, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he has yet received any official intimation of the alleged shooting of two British subjects named MacLauglan and Boyd by orders of Commandant Delarey; whether he is aware that Ronald Boyd was a British subject who had only been in South Africa two years, and held a permit from the late Transvaal Government, granted on his taking the oath of neutrality; and whether he will order an official investigation by the authorities on the spot.

MR. BRODRICK: I have no official information of the matter referred to. I will make inquiry.

GENERAL COLVILE.

MR. EMMOTT (Oldham): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that a telegram sent by the Chief of the Staff to General Colvile on 24th May, 1900, to inform him by what route the 13th Yeomanry would join him, did not reach him till some weeks after that date; and whether he has any official information showing that the explanation of the delay is that this telegram was wrongly addressed to the General Officer commanding the 9th Brigade instead of to the General Officer commanding the 9th Division; and, if so, can he state whether any inquiry has been made into the conduct of the officer who so addressed it, and how he has been dealt with.

MR. BRODRICK: The telegram referred to did not reach General Colvile until after the 31st May. It appears, however, to have been correctly addressed to the General Officer commanding the 9th Division.

MILITIA RESERVISTS ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state how many men have been taken from the Militia Reserve for the army in South Africa, and when reinforcements from that body had first to be called for owing to the waste of the campaign; and can he inform the House how many of the Militiamen now serving were members of the force at the annual training of 1899.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): 13,574 Militia Reservists have been taken for the army in South Africa. The first drafts to replace wastage left in January, 1900. No figures are available to enable me to reply to the second part of the question.

MR. FFRENCH (Wexford, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether a Militiaman belonging to the Militia Reserve who has been serving in South Africa since January, 1900, and whose time is up next April, can be compelled by the military authorities to serve ten months longer; and, if not, whether he is entitled to get his discharge.

LORD STANLEY: A Militia Reservist when called out for permanent service is liable to serve a year beyond the date of the expiration of his Reserve service if a state of war exists.

RANK OF MILITIA OFFICERS.

MR. GRIFFITH BOSCAWEN (Kent, Tunbridge): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that there is dissatisfaction felt by officers of the Militia in consequence of the fact that officers of other Auxiliary forces have had Army rank conferred on them while serving in South Africa, thus giving them seniority over Militia officers of the same rank, although the Militia is the oldest Auxiliary force; and whether he can remedy this by conferring Army rank on all Militia officers serving abroad in future.

LORD STANLEY: This question is under consideration. I hope to be able to give a definite answer before long.

MILITIA—TRAINING OF BATTALIONS NOT EMBODIED.

MR. GRIFFITH BOSCAWEN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state if there is to be a regular training this summer of those Militia battalions which are not now embodied; and, if so, under what conditions.

MR. BRODRICK: This question has not yet been decided.

STRATHCONA'S HORSE.

SIR EDWARD SASSOON (Hythe): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the troopers of Strathcona's Horse upon whom His Majesty bestowed medals will be permitted to wear the ribbon of the medal pending the issue of the medal itself; and whether orders will be issued to general officers commanding districts to authorise the wearing of the ribbon as laid down in King's Regulations, paragraph 2,048A.

*LORD STANLEY: When the King bestows a medal on a soldier he can wear the medal and the ribbon. When the Army Order regarding the grant of a war medal for South Africa is published the instructions referred to will be carried out.

TEMPORARY STAFF OFFICERS' OUTFIT ALLOWANCES.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether a pledge was given by his predecessor to grant an outfit allowance to officers posted to temporary appointments on the staff; and, if so, whether it has been carried out.

*LORD STANLEY: Presumably the hon. and gallant Member refers to officers taken from the Reserve, Retired List, or Auxiliary Forces for temporary staff employment, and requiring an outfit. In these cases the allowance would be given, but not more than one allowance to any individual officer.

CAPTAIN NORTON: Do not officers on half-pay receive the allowance?

*LORD STANLEY: I think they come under the heading "Retired List Officers." I am not certain, however, and will make inquiry.

CAPTAIN NORTON: I received a pledge from the late Secretary for War that half-pay officers should have the allowance.

COMMISSIONS FROM THE RANKS—OUTFITS GRANTS.

MR. ALLHUSEN (Hackney, Central): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether he can explain why any exception is made to the giving of a grant of money towards outfit for a soldier from the ranks on receiving a commission; and can he state the amount of the grant usually given, and whether his official information shows that it has been found adequate to cover the expense of an officer's outfit.

*LORD STANLEY: The regulations have been relaxed in cases of certain soldiers engaged on active service in South Africa. The amount of the grant is £100. The sum is adequate in the cases of most corps.

VOLUNTEER SUMMER CAMPS.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, seeing that delay in the issue of the definite arrangements and regulations for the Volunteer summer camps increases the difficulty of securing attendance, he will take the earliest opportunity possible of making public these arrangements.

*MR. BRODRICK: I can assure my hon. and gallant friend that every effort is being made to publish the arrangements for Volunteer camps as soon as possible; but he must be aware that the new arrangements of the present year have involved great pressure in all Departments.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S FUNERAL—1ST SEAFORTH VOLUNTEERS.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War, having regard to the fact that the 1st Seaforth Volunteers reached London from Dingwall at 5.30 on the morning of Saturday, the 2nd February, by invitation of the War Office, to attend the Queen's funeral, will he state why the staff officers in charge of the funeral ceremonies made no arrangements for the part which these Volunteers were to take at the funeral; and will he explain why no information was obtainable at the War Office with regard to the disposal of the various Volunteers who arrived in London from Scotland to attend the funeral.

*LORD STANLEY: All country Volunteer corps not included in the funeral procession were formed into a provisional brigade, and positions were allotted to them along the line of route. The disposal of the various Volunteer detachments arriving in London rested entirely with the general commanding the home district.

PARCEL POSTAGE RATES TO TROOPS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

MR. MANSFIELD (Lincolnshire, Spalding): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether parcels sent to the troops in Africa are charged 1s. per pound postage; and whether, seeing that similar parcels sent to any part of Australia, New Zealand, or Canada only cost 6d. per pound, he can arrange for parcels sent to the troops in Africa to be charged at a similar rate.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): Postage at the rate of 1s. a pound is not charged on parcels for the troops sent from this country to any part of South Africa. Such parcels may be sent to the Cape Colony, Natal, the Orange River Colony, and the Transvaal for a postage of 9d. a pound. For parcels to Australia, New Zealand, and Canada the postage is not 6d. a pound, as the hon. Member supposes. To Australia, by the cheapest route, it is 1s. for the first pound and 6d. for every succeeding pound. To New Zealand as much as three pounds can be conveyed for 1s., the lowest postage; while to Canada the rate is 8d. for the first pound and 6d. for each succeeding pound. The varying requirements of the colonies themselves render it impossible to obtain greater uniformity at present.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): But is it not possible to reduce the charge to the troops to 6d.?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I am sure the Postmaster General would be very glad to do it if possible, and I will communicate with him, but I am afraid there are difficulties in the way.

H.M.S. "JACKAL."

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he will state whether the officers and men of H.M.S. "Jackal" were on leave of absence during the month of October; and, if so, on what dates.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): The officers and men of H.M.S. "Jackal" were not on leave of absence during the month of October last.

SLAVERY IN PEMBA AND ZANZIBAR.

MR. THOMAS BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will inform the House of the number of slaves that have received their papers of freedom in the slave courts of Zanzibar and Pemba in each of the years 1898, 1899, and 1900; and if he can give an estimate of the number of slaves still in these two islands.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.) (for Viscount CRANBORNE): The number of slaves freed in Zanzibar and Pemba during the years 1898, 1899, and 1900 were respectively, 2,735, 4,263, 1,685. His Majesty's Agent and Consul General at Zanzibar estimates the present number of slaves in the two islands at, approximately, 50,000.

BRITISH CONSULAR AGENTS IN FINLAND.

MR. DAVID MORGAN (Essex, Walthamstow): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can state what arrangements have been made with the Russian Government for filling up the appointments of British Consular Agents in Finland; can he say at how many and which of the Finnish ports appointments have been made; and, in view of the importance to British traders and shipowners of having in all the principal Finnish ports British Consular Agents to protect and watch over British interests, will the vacancies still remaining soon be filled.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (for Viscount CRANBORNE): The Consular ports in Finland held by unpaid officers, which became vacant by the resignation of the holders in 1899, have not yet been filled up, with the exception of Uleaborg, to which Mr. Blunt was appointed in August last. The paid Consulate at Helsingfors, however, has been re-established, and the Consul, Mr. Cooke, is expected to arrive there very shortly to take up his duties. His Majesty's Government would be very glad to fill up the other vacancies as soon as circumstances permit.

BRITISH SHIPS IN CHINESE WATERS.

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Russian Government has recently endeavoured to exclude the British fleet from certain portions of the Gulf of Pechili, and has claimed the waters of the Blonde and Elliott Islands as exclusively belonging to Russia; and, if so, what steps His Majesty's Government has taken in consequence of this claim.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR (for Viscount CRANBORNE): We have received no communication on this subject from the Russian Government, but the Russian Admiral remonstrated against the presence in the waters of the Elliott Islands of H.M.S. "Plover," which was engaged in pursuing pirates. The action of the Commander-in-Chief on the China Station in sending British ships to these islands appears to be in accordance with our rights under Article 52 of the Treaty of Tientsin.

**Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT*: May I understand that this claim has not been accepted by His Majesty's Government?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Certainly.

BRITISH INFLUENCE IN THE YANG-TSZE VALLEY.

Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the information in his possession shows that there is a decline of British influence in the Chinese provinces bordering on the Yang-tsze-Kiang river; and, if so, what steps His Majesty's Government are taking to restore and maintain British influence there.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR (for Viscount CRANBORNE): There is no information showing a decline of British influence in the Yang-tsze Valley.

ANGLO-RUSSIAN DISPUTE AT TIENTSIN.

Mr. JOSEPH WALTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley): I wish to ask the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs a question of which I have given him private notice. It is whether he can give the House any information in regard to the reported seizure by Russia of land at Tientsin, which was mortgaged to British bondholders.

The UNDER SECRETARY for FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Viscount CRANBORNE, Rochester): Since I received the private notice I have not had any opportunity of obtaining the last information from the Foreign Office. I must ask the hon. Member to put the question on the Paper.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): Can the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs say why General Barrow's orders, that the action of Russia should be opposed by force of arms, could not be carried out?

Viscount CRANBORNE: The hon. Member must give notice.

SHANGHAI AND TA-KU CABLE.

***Sir CHARLES DILKE** (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the cable recently laid between Shanghai, Wei-hai-wei, and Ta-ku, other than the portion between Wei-hai-wei and Chefoo shown in the Estimates, has been laid by arrangement with His Majesty's Government, and to whom it belongs; and whether in case the proprietorship of the cable is divided between the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company and the Great Northern Telegraph Company, the nationality of the persons employed in the offices at Shanghai, Chefoo, Wei-hai-wei, and Ta-ku has been provided for in the agreement; or whether, the Great Northern Company being the Danish company which uses the Russian land lines as part of its system, the new cable is subject to the same arrangements as those which have previously existed with regard to the offices in China of that company.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): The cable between Shanghai, Chefoo, and Ta-ku (which does not touch at Wei-hai-wei) has been laid by the Eastern Extension and Great Northern Telegraph Companies, on account of the Chinese Telegraph Administration, under an arrangement which His Majesty's Government recognises and supports. The cable is mortgaged by the Chinese administrations to the companies for twenty-five years at least, and they will work and maintain it. Wei-hai-wei will be served by a branch line from Chefoo. It is stipulated in the agreement between the Eastern Extension Company and His Majesty's Government that the branch line shall be worked by British staff, and that all traffic between Wei-hai-wei, Chefoo, Shanghai, and Hong Kong shall also, as far as practicable, be transmitted exclusively by British staff.

UNCLAIMED FUNDS.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he can state or approximately estimate the amount of unclaimed dividends on Consols and other National funds; of unclaimed deposits and balances in joint stock, trustees, and Post Office Savings Banks; of the unclaimed dividends of joint stock and of limited liability companies; and of unclaimed funds in Chancery and other courts of law; and whether in default of specific information as to the detailed and aggregate amounts of these unclaimed funds, he will agree to an inquiry with a view to their being utilised for the relief of the taxation of the country.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: With regard to the majority of the various funds of the nature of unclaimed dividends which are in the hands of or under the control of Government, I will send to the hon. Member the information he desires, but it would not be possible to present the facts intelligibly within the limits of an answer. Perhaps I may take this opportunity of saying that the idea which appears to be prevalent in some quarters that there are large sums of such moneys lying idle is quite a mistake. The total amount is not at all large, and the moneys are I think in all cases, where of sufficient amount, usefully employed. With regard to funds of a similar nature outside the purview of Government, I have no information, and I do not at present see how it is to be obtained; but I will consider the hon. Member's suggestion.

THE NEW COINAGE.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the title "Defender of the Faith" is to be retained on the new coinage; and, if so, whether he can say what particular faith is referred to.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: It does not rest with me as the Master of the Mint to decide on the Royal titles. While these remain unaltered, they will naturally continue to appear as at present on the coins.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman, if it is not his business, will he kindly tell me whose business it is, in order that I may ask that Gentleman?

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: I imagine that, like other matters of the kind, it would be the business of His Majesty, acting on the advice of his responsible Minister.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to give notice that I shall take an early opportunity of bringing under His Majesty's notice the fact that he has no earthly right to this title.

AN HON. MEMBER: Insolence.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: But he has not.

MAGISTRATES AND THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.

MR. LAMBERT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in view of the inconvenience caused by existing requirements, he will advise His Majesty to issue an order under Section 2 of the Promissory Oaths Act, 1871, enabling justices to take the oath of allegiance and the judicial oath before any two justices in petty sessions assembled.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): I propose to take the King's pleasure on this matter.

TREATMENT OF INEBRIATES.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he can state how many persons have been committed to inebriate homes under the Inebriates Act of 1898.

*MR. RITCHIE: I can only give the number of persons received into inebriate reformatories—namely, up to the present time, 257.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS: Cannot the right hon. Gentleman say how many have been committed?

*MR. RITCHIE: No, Sir, I am afraid not.

BRADFORD ANTI-VACCINATIONISTS.

MR. BELL (Derby): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to the arrest of Walter Mottershead, of Bradford, at 5 o'clock in the morning of the 26th February, in consequence of his child, aged two years, not having been vaccinated; whether he will give directions that such an arrest should not be made at such an hour in the morning; and whether in the event of the child not being vaccinated he can interfere to prevent the man being again prosecuted.

*MR. RITCHIE: My attention has already been drawn to this case, but I have no authority to give any directions of the nature indicated, or to intervene in the course of criminal proceedings.

EARTHENWARE AND CHINA INDUSTRY—LEAD POISONING.

MR. JAMES HEATH (Staffordshire, N.W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will give a Return of the number of cases of lead poisoning in earthenware and china works during the years 1899 and 1900, with a statement in each case of the degree of seriousness of the ailment, and, wherever possible, the length of time for which the person was absent from work.

*MR. RITCHIE: I will give a Return showing so far as possible the severity of the attack, the number of previous attacks and the nature of the principal symptoms; but I am afraid that it is not possible to show the length of time for which each person was absent from work.

SUGGESTED AMNESTY FOR IRISH POLITICAL PRISONERS.

MR. DELANY (Queen's Co., Ossory): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will consider the advisability of recommending His Majesty the King to signalise his accession to the Throne by ordering the release of all the Irish political prisoners at present confined in the gaols of the United Kingdom.

*MR. RITCHIE: So far as I am aware there are no Irish confined in any prison in England or Wales who can in any sense of the term be called political prisoners. I am not responsible for Irish or Scotch prisons.

MR. DELANY: What about the prisoners referred to by the hon. Member for Galway who have been convicted by packed juries?

[No answer was given.]

VEHICULAR TRAFFIC IN THE METROPOLIS.

MR. THOMAS DEWAR: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, having regard to the fact that over 1,100 persons are injured and over 50 deaths occur through accidents caused by covered vehicles in the streets of London every year, whether it is the Government's intention to grant to the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis authority to compel proprietors of covered vehicles to have them so constructed as to enable drivers to see passing and following traffic.

*MR. RITCHIE: I quite agree with my predecessor, who said, in answer to a question last year, that these covered vehicles are undoubtedly a danger, but I am afraid the Government have no power to grant the authority suggested.

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE.

MR. LAMBERT: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture if he can state how many outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease have occurred this year, whether more or less than occurred to this date last year; whether his attention has been drawn to the danger of introducing the disease by the importation of hides, skins, and offal from countries infected with the disease; and what steps he proposes to take to prevent such infection in this country.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): Ten outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease have occurred this year. In the corresponding period of 1900 there were seven, but the counties affected this year are only two as against three last year. The possibility of the introduction of the disease by the importation of skins, hides, and offal, as well as by hay and straw, and in many similar ways, has been the subject of frequent inquiry and attention, but while the evidence of actual danger is not clear, especially in the case of the imports mentioned in the question, the inconvenience to the many trades concerned would be out of all proportion to the risk involved, and there is no precedent for a general prohibition of such imports. It is, of course, the duty of the Customs under the Foreign Animals Order of 1896 to seize, detain, and, if necessary, destroy in specific cases, where there is reason to believe that disease may be introduced.

MR. LAMBERT: Will the right hon. Gentleman see that in any cases of suspected infection the hides are disinfected?

*MR. HANBURY: Of course.

FIRE DEFENCE.

MR. MALCOLM (Suffolk, Stowmarket): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been directed to a speech delivered by his predecessor in office, on 12th April, 1899, on the subject of fire brigades† ; whether he has considered the Report of the Select Committee thereupon issued in July, 1900; and whether, having regard to the danger and anxiety caused by the existing state of fire defence, he is prepared to introduce a measure based upon the unanimous recommendation of that Select Committee.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): The Report of the Select Committee is receiving my consideration, but I cannot hold out any prospect of introducing a Bill on the subject during the present session.

MR. MALCOLM: If a Bill based on the unanimous recommendations of the Select Committee is introduced into the House, will the right hon. Gentleman support it?

MR. WALTER LONG: It is impossible for me to answer that, as the recommendations of the Committee affect Departments other than my own.

WIDENING OF PICCADILLY.

*COLONEL LEGGE (St. George's, Hanover Square): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works if he can say when the proposed widening of Piccadilly will be carried out.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): This is a work, as my hon. and gallant friend is aware, which is to be carried out by the County Council. I believe they will be ready to commence it in the ensuing summer.

HYDE PARK GATES.

COLONEL TUFNELL (Essex, S.E.): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether he would consider the advisability of allowing cabs proceeding to Paddington Station to pass through the gates at Hyde Park Corner along the north side of the Serpentine and out at Victoria Gate.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: This could not be allowed without an alteration of the Statutory Rules made under the Parks Regulation Act. I do not think it would be advisable to take any steps for the alteration of the rules at present.

EDINBURGH NEW INLAND REVENUE BUILDINGS.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works, having regard to the fact that the construction of the new Inland Revenue Buildings at Edinburgh was for some time delayed owing to the quarry from which the stone was obtained having ceased working, will he say whether a sufficient quantity of suitable stone has now been obtained from another quarry, and what progress has been made with the buildings.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: A sufficient quantity of suitable stone was obtained from another quarry, and the contract was completed in October, 1899.

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† See *The Parliamentary Debates* [Fourth Series], Vol. lxix., page 901.

KESSOCK FERRY, INVERNESS—CONVEYANCE OF MAILS.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, will he explain why the mails are conveyed over Kessock Ferry, Inverness, as passengers' luggage; and will he state whether the mails are conveyed over both public and private ferries throughout the United Kingdom under similar conditions; and under what Act of Parliament this practice is authorised.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The Postmaster General is advised that he is entitled to claim that the postman who crosses Kessock Ferry with the mails should be conveyed for the charge applicable to ordinary members of the public and their luggage. The conditions under which mails are conveyed over public and private ferries throughout the United Kingdom are not in all cases identical. In England the Postmaster General has, as a rule, a right to the free use of a ferry not only for his mails, but for any officer in charge of them. The enactment bearing on the conveyance of postmen with mails across ferries is Section 9 of the Post Office (Offences) Act, 1837 (1. Vic. c. 36); but there are doctrines of the common law of England also bearing on the question.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY—THE POST OFFICE AND STEAMSHIP COMPANIES.

Sir JOHN LENG: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he can explain what are the hindrances to the adoption by British steamship companies of the Marconi system of wireless telegraphy now in use on board of Belgian and German steamers; whether he can state what requirements are made by the British Post Office which are not made by foreign post offices; and whether such as are proved to be hindrances will be speedily removed.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The only steamship companies who have applied to the Postmaster General are those engaged in the Channel services to France. Negotiations are proceeding with those companies, and the Postmaster General is not in a position to give any further information at present.

BOLTON POST OFFICE EMPLOYEES' GRIEVANCES.

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if the Secretary to the Post Office has received a petition from the employees at the Bolton post office calling attention to certain grievances in connection with the transference of rural postmen to the town, forwarded to him on the 20th November, 1900; if so, can he say when it was acknowledged; and what action does he propose to take in regard to the grievances mentioned therein.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Inquiry has been made, but no trace of the memorial from postmen at Bolton of November last having been received in the Secretary's office can at present be found. A revision of the delivery arrangements at Bolton is now in course of preparation, and in connection with this the complaints about their present duties, which are understood to have been put forward in the memorial in question by the postmen who were transferred from the rural district in 1897, will be duly considered by the Postmaster General.

CIVIL SERVICE RULES—MONITOR CANDIDATES.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can explain why persons who have served as monitors in national schools in Ireland for a period of five years are not granted the same allowances in age when competing for Civil Service appointments as are granted to members of the Royal Irish Constabulary of five years service; and whether he will take steps to instruct the Civil Service Commissioners to have monitors included amongst those classes of persons to whom age allowances are made when competing for Civil Service appointments.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: As my predecessor explained on 9th April last, it is undesirable that persons who have been trained at public expense for the position of teacher should be given special encouragement to quit that profession for the Civil Service. I cannot therefore give the undertaking suggested in the second paragraph of the question.

RADWINTER AND HEMPSTEAD POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

Mr. ARMINE WODEHOUSE (Essex, Saffron Walden): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether the Postmaster General is aware of the inconvenience caused to the inhabitants of the villages of Radwinter and Hempstead, in Essex, owing to having only one delivery of letters a day, which makes it impossible for them to get a newspaper on the day of issue, while immediately adjacent villages though further from their post town have two deliveries, and whether the Postmaster General will reconsider the answer communicated last month to the Chairman of the Hempstead Parish Council; and whether he is aware that frequently the walking postman is unable to take parcels duly posted at Hempstead owing to having more than he can carry, and whether he will make inquiry with a view to remedying this state of things.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The Postmaster General has received from time to time applications for a second post from the inhabitants of Radwinter and Hempstead. The matter has been carefully considered, but it is found that the cost of the present service to these places exceeds the revenue from the correspondence, and that the expense of providing a second post is not justified. The Postmaster General is not aware that the postman is unable to take all parcels posted at Hempstead, but he is having inquiry made on the subject.

MALLAIG AND STORNOWAY STEAM SERVICE.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he will state when the proposed experimental steamer service between Mallaig and Stornoway will commence, and for how long this experimental service will be in operation; and in view of the dissatisfaction which exists in regard to the present steamer service, will care be taken that tenders are invited for the new steamer service between Mallaig and Stornoway as soon as the precise nature of the service to be given has been determined.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The institution of any mail service by steamer between Mallaig and Stornoway is dependent upon the opening of the railway to Mallaig, upon the times at which the railway company may finally decide to run the trains, and upon the arrangements which the Postmaster General may be able to make with the company. The question of inviting tenders for a permanent mail service by steamer between the above-named places will be further considered when any service, which it may be found desirable to establish experimentally, has been in actual operation for a sufficient period.

PONTYPOOL TELEPHONE EXCHANGE.

Mr. M'KENNA (Monmouthshire, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether, in view of the fact that the telephone exchange for the Abergavenny district is at Pontypool, he could state whether the transfer of the Abergavenny district to the Pontypool Telephone Exchange area is in any way barred by any condition in the Agreement with the National Telephone Company in connection with the purchase of the trunk lines by the State in 1896; and whether he could arrange for such transfer for the convenience of persons resident in the Abergavenny district and in the Pontypool Telephone Exchange area.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The limitation of local telephone exchange business to defined areas was a necessary condition of the Agreement of 1896, under which the Post Office purchased the telephone trunk wires of the National Telephone Company, and undertook the maintenance and extension of the trunk wire system. The fusion of the Pontypool and Abergavenny Exchange areas as defined by that Agreement would involve the abandonment of its main principle.

THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES—DELAY IN PUBLICATION.

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that at four o'clock on the afternoon of the 14th instant the last number of *The Parliamentary Debates* to be obtained in the Library was that recording the proceedings of the 25th February; and, seeing that this represents an arrear of nine or ten days beyond contract time, can he say whether the delay is due to the extra work thrown on the reporters in consequence of the recent late sittings; and whether he will take steps to ensure a more prompt issue of the *Debates*. In putting this question I desire to say that it implies no reflection on the reporting staff, which I believe is doing its duty very satisfactorily.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Yes, Sir, I am aware that there has been a very regrettable delay in the publication of the *Debates* this session, but I am informed that within a few minutes of the time mentioned in the hon. Member's question two more daily parts were placed in the Library. I have communicated with the contractors, who inform me that the delay has been due to the breakdown of a vessel conveying new plant and material for use in the work, but that the plant and material are now in their hands and the arrears are being rapidly made up. I hope that under these circumstances no further cause of complaint will arise. The hon. Member will see that it is not suggested that the delay is due to the reporting staff.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the last number of the printed proceedings of this House in the Library now is dated 28th February—eighteen days ago?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I am not aware of the fact, but I accept the hon. Member's statement. I hope that now the new machinery has reached the contractors the delay will soon be made up.

MR. TENNANT (Berwickshire): May I ask where the new plant and machinery came from—was it made in Germany or not?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

SHIELDAIG AND APPLECROSS (ROSS-SHIRE) CART ROAD.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether he is aware that one of the proprietors in the parish of Applecross, Ross-shire, has refused to give permission for the construction of a cart road between Shieldaig and Applecross; and can the Secretary for Scotland take any steps to secure the construction of the proposed road.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): I am not aware of the fact referred to in the first paragraph of the hon. Member's question, and in any case the matter seems to lie with the road authority.

KING'S TITLE IN SCOTLAND.

MR. BLACK (Banffshire): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the officials in the Signet Office in Edinburgh decline to signet summonses running in the name of His Most Gracious Majesty King Edward unless the words "the Seventh" are added; and whether, in view of the fact that no Sovereign bearing the name of Edward has hitherto reigned in Scotland, instructions will be given to discontinue the practice in all writs and documents running in the name of the Crown relating to Scotland alone.

MR. JOHN DEWAR (Inverness-shire): Before the right hon. Gentleman answers, may I inquire whether his attention has been called to the fact that the Oath of Allegiance taken by hon. Members was to "King Edward" and not to "King Edward VII."?

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): Is the Lord Advocate aware that, if a rigorous rule were enforced as to the words "the Seventh," a precedent would be created which was not adhered to in the similar case of William IV.?

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The answer to the question on the Paper is that it has been decided, after full consideration, that His Majesty shall sign as Edward VII. all writs passing the signet and other documents running in the name of the Crown in Scotland. The Secretary for Scotland sees no sufficient ground on which to suggest an alteration of this decision as is suggested in the question. In answer to the question of the hon. Member for North Aberdeen, I have made inquiry into the matter, and find that in the time of William IV. signet letters and summonses always ran in the name of "William the Fourth," so that precedent is adhered to. As to the question of the hon. Member for Inverness-shire, I candidly confess I have tried in vain to find a Scotch grievance in the King's designation as Edward VII. It seems to me to be really a matter of convenience of citation, and that it would lead to considerable confusion if the statutes were cited in Scotland as those of Edward I. of Scotland. His Majesty was proclaimed under the title of Edward VII., and the old idea in Scotland in regard to King James does not arise, because the statutes were not cited in the same way as now.

Mr. PIRIE: May I point out that the precedent of William IV. was not always followed?

SCOTTISH CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD—ROAD CONSTRUCTION.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the Secretary for Scotland is aware that efforts are being made to induce the Congested Districts Board to construct private roads on certain estates in the congested area; and will care be taken that the funds of the Board are not expended in the construction of roads which are to be specially under the control of landlords and for their exclusive benefit.

*Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I am informed by the Congested Districts Board that their practice is only to entertain the question of grants for such roads as are approved by the Statutory Authority, namely, the district committee whose application is forwarded to the county council; and they are then further advised by the consulting engineer to the Board. In these circumstances there seems no reason for giving any undertaking to provide against the insinuation conveyed in the latter part of the hon. Member's question.

AVOCH HARBOUR.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade, having regard to the fact that in 1894 a landowner of Rosehaugh, at Avoch, Ross-shire, obtained a Provisional Order for the construction of a harbour, can it be stated whether Mr. Fletcher has since taken any steps to put into execution the terms of the Order; and will he state whether the Order has some time since lapsed.

Mr. WALTER LONG (for Mr. Gerald Balfour): I understand that the works authorised by the Avoch Harbour Order, 1894, have not been commenced within the prescribed time. If this be the case, the powers conferred by the Order would appear to have ceased.

Mr. WEIR: Cannot the right hon. Gentleman answer the first part of the question?

Mr. LONG: No, Sir, I can only give the answer I have received. The hon. Member must put down any further question.

Mr. WEIR: It is a very unsatisfactory answer.

APPEAL FOR IRISH PRISONERS.

Mr. DUFFY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the cases of two prisoners undergoing penal servitude for life, one, Patrick Finnigan, in Mountjoy Prison, and another, Constable Muldowney, in Maryborough Prison, on conviction of complicity in murder; whether he is aware that His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant received petitions from all the public representative bodies, eleven in number, in the county of Galway, praying His Excellency to consider their cases; and whether, in view of the fact that they have spent eighteen years in prison, His Excellency will now give their cases his most favourable consideration with a view to the exercise of the clemency of the Crown.

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. Wyndham, Dover): The petitions referred to were received by the Lord Lieutenant, who decided, so recently as August last, that the law must take its course. But if any new fact has transpired since then it can be brought before the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, who is the dispenser of the prerogative of mercy in that island.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman will add to his statement by saying that he will look into the facts of the case himself, and use his influence with the Lord Lieutenant in the exercise of the prerogative of mercy.

MR. WYNDHAM: I am afraid I could not. It would be altogether outside my sphere.

MR. DUFFY: But is it not the fact that occasions when a Monarch ascends the Throne are deemed auspicious opportunities for exercising the prerogative of mercy? Will the Government not take into consideration the fact that these men have been in prison nineteen years?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The question has been answered.

MR. WYNDHAM: Any facts should be laid not before me, but before the Lord Lieutenant, who dispenses the prerogative of mercy.

MR. DUFFY: Well, I shall certainly bring this matter under the notice of the House.

LIVE-STOCK BREEDING IN IRELAND.

MR. KENNEDY (Westmeath, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will take steps to co-ordinate the administration of Government grants for encouraging improvement in the breeding of live stock in Ireland by transferring to the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland the grant now made for that purpose to the Royal Dublin Society.

MR. WYNDHAM: The grant now made to the Royal Dublin Society for encouraging improvement in the breeding of live stock in Ireland is, by mutual arrangement, administered in co-ordination with the Department of Agriculture. In framing its schemes the Society has conferred with the Department, and has endeavoured to frame its rules so as to avoid the risk of its work overlapping or conflicting with the work of the Department.

MR. KENNEDY: Does not the present system produce friction?

MR. WYNDHAM: I understand that the Royal Dublin Society and the Public Department are working in harmony on this matter.

IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT—THE WEXFORD APPEAL.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say when the Vote for the Local Government Board for Ireland will be taken, and if the Government will provide an opportunity for discussing the case of the Wexford County Council *v.* The Local Government Board.

MR. WYNDHAM: This question should be addressed to the First Lord of the Treasury. I am quite prepared to express my opinion in the course of any debate on this matter.

LOWER ORMOND ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state what is the reason for the delay in carrying out the recommendation of the County Council of North Tipperary with regard to the transfer to the Borrisokane Union of certain electoral divisions in the barony of Lower Ormond.

MR. WYNDHAM: The general question of the amalgamation and alteration of certain unions is engaging the attention of the Local Government Board. The recommendation of the North Tipperary County Council will be considered with other proposals of a like nature.

KERRY ASSIZES—JURY CHALLENGING.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state how many Roman Catholics attended as jurors at last Kerry assizes, how many were ordered to stand aside in the trial of the Glencar prisoners, and on what grounds was such an order given; and can he explain why those prisoners who had given substantial bail for their appearance at the trial, and whom the jury acquitted, were conveyed handcuffed in pairs through the streets of Tralee to the county gaol.

Mr. WYNDHAM: I have no information as to the religious composition of the panel. The number of jurors on the panel was 100, of whom 69 answered. In answer to the second paragraph, when the hearing of the cases was adjourned overnight on the 12th instant, application was made to the Lord Chief Justice for the admission of the accused to bail, but this application was refused by the learned judge. The prisoners were then conveyed by car, handcuffed, to the gaol; they were not marched through the streets. They were handcuffed by order of the gaoler, who, as responsible for their safe custody until finally dealt with by the Court, was bound to take every necessary precaution for their safe keeping.

Mr. THOMAS O'DONNELL: Can you state the number who were ordered to stand by?

Mr. WYNDHAM: Fifty-four.

Captain DONELAN (Cork, E.): Are prisoners in similar circumstances in England handcuffed?

Mr. WYNDHAM: That is a hypothetical question that it would be very difficult to answer.

Mr. FLYNN (Cork): Are you aware that these prisoners had been out on bail?

Mr. WYNDHAM: I am perfectly aware of that. Under similar circumstances prisoners have sometimes not come up.

Colonel NOLAN (Galway, N.): Cannot the right hon. Gentleman take steps to prevent these things occurring?

Mr. WYNDHAM: It is in the discretion of the officials who are responsible for the safe keeping of the prisoners.

Mr. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): Do you know that the condition of bail bonds is that they are to last from day to-day?

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order!

IRISH QUEEN'S COLLEGES.

Mr. ROCHE (Galway, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state the amount of cost incurred in establishing the Queen's Colleges of Cork, Belfast, and Galway, and also the amount of present endowments and the total amounts of the annual grants since made for maintenance and such purposes.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The original cost of the buildings to the State was £100,000, and additional grants amounting to £138,627 have since been made for new buildings and cost of maintenance. Each of the colleges receives an endowment of £7,000 a year out of the Consolidated Fund, together with an annual Parliamentary Vote of £1,600 in aid of expenses.

IRISH DISTRICT INSPECTORS OF CONSTABULARY.

Mr. CONOR O'KELLY (Mayo, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, seeing that it is the practice of the Constabulary authorities not to allow district inspectors to remain longer than four years in the first district to which they are sent after completing their training as cadets in the depôt, he can explain why District Inspector Wallace, of Belmullet, has been retained for twelve years in that district; and can he say whether any other district inspectors in the force have been retained in control of a police district for such a length of time?

Mr. WYNDHAM: There is no regulation to the effect mentioned in the first paragraph. District Inspector Wallace has been retained at Belmullet in the interests of the public service, and several other officers have remained in charge of districts for similar and even longer periods.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S FUNERAL—POLICE AND IRISH SHOPKEEPERS.

Mr. CONOR O'KELLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Mr. John O'Malley, a licensed publican of Belmullet, having declined to close his premises on 2nd February, on the occasion of the funeral of Her late

Majesty, in accordance with the orders of the police, they entered his shop and only refrained from putting up the window shutters when Mr. O'Malley eventually requested his assistants to close his shop; and, can he state by whose authority the Belmullet police ordered the local publicans to close their premises on the occasion referred to.

MR. WYNDHAM: The allegation that the police entered Mr. O'Malley's premises on the 2nd February is without foundation. Several publicans asked the District Inspector on the previous day whether they were required to close, and that officer expressed the opinion, erroneously, that the day came within the provisions of the Licensing Act of 1872.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Will compensation be given to the publicans for their loss of trade through having acted on instructions erroneously given by the police?

MR. WYNDHAM: I do not know whether the error was corrected in time or not. In the only other instance in which it was made it was corrected in time.

CONGESTED DISTRICT BOARD'S WORK IN COUNTY GALWAY.

MR. O'MALLEY (Galway, Connemara): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will furnish particulars as to the operations of the Congested Districts Board in County Galway, similar to those which he has promised to supply in county Kerry.

MR. WYNDHAM: The information will be sent to the hon. Member in the course of a few days.

IRISH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILS.

*MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will take steps to extend the powers of the rural district councils in Ireland that will confer on them the right already enjoyed by urban councils to erect artizans dwellings for tradesmen in towns which have not been urbanised under the Local Government (Ireland) Act, so as to enable these rural councils to provide for the better housing of the tradesmen in such towns.

MR. WYNDHAM: The rural district councils have extensive powers for providing house accommodation under the Labourers Acts. As at present advised, I am not prepared to extend those powers by applying the Housing of the Working Classes Acts to rural districts.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY: Will the right hon. Gentleman undertake to break down the monopoly?

MR. WYNDHAM: I do not admit that there is a monopoly. The time has not come to apply to urban districts the powers now exercised in rural districts.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY: Will the right hon. Gentleman look into the question?

MR. WYNDHAM: My reply was based on my consideration of it.

INLAND REVENUE—PROSECUTION OF MR. LESLIE.

*DR. THOMPSON (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that in the case of Mr. Leslie, who was a party to the recent proceedings in the King's Bench Division in Ireland, the first permission to Mr. Leslie given by the Inland Revenue authorities was to continue to carry on the business of selling intoxicating liquors pending the decision of that Court; and that this decision was given on the 21st December 1900, while the date of the application on behalf of Mr. Leslie for a new permission was the 11th January 1901; can he state whether Mr. Leslie sold intoxicating liquors or exposed them for sale between the 21st December and the 11th January; and, if so, will directions be given to the local police authorities to take proceedings against him for his breach of the law, and will the second permission granted be now withdrawn.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): The facts are set out with substantial accuracy in the first paragraph of the question. Intoxicating liquors were not sold or exposed for sale by Mr. Leslie in the interval between the 21st December, when the King's Bench Division delivered judgment, and the 23rd January, when the permission was obtained. The concluding inquiry in the question of the hon. Member for North Monaghan should be addressed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but probably the hon. Member will be satisfied with the assurance given by my right hon. friend on Friday last.

INLAND REVENUE—QUEEN'S STORES, DUBLIN.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN: On behalf of the hon. Member for the Harbour Division of Dublin, I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the Excise Bonded Stores, at 12, North Wall, Dublin, known as the Queen's Stores, have recently been sold to a shipping company; and, if so, whether it is intended that the premises be continued as bonded stores; and whether the porters employed by the Inland Revenue in connection with these stores will be continued in the service or receive remuneration if disemployed.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: It is a fact that arrangements have been made by the Board of Works (Dublin) for the sale of the Queen's Stores, North Wall, Dublin, to a shipping company; but the Board of Inland Revenue are not aware of the purpose for which the company propose to use the premises. The porters employed by the Board at the stores have received notice that their services will not be required after the 31st instant. They will receive on retirement such gratuities as they may be qualified for under the Superannuation Act.

TALLOW CONSPIRACY CASE AT WATERFORD ASSIZES.

Mr. O'SHEE (Waterford, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state how many jurors were ordered by the Crown to stand aside at the recent Waterford assizes in the case of the alleged conspiracy at Tallow, county Waterford; and can he give the grounds on which the Crown Solicitor directed John Power and other jurors to stand aside, and state the proportion of the entire panel directed to stand aside.

Mr. ATKINSON: With the permission of my right hon. friend, I will reply to this question. There were 120 jurors on the panel in the case referred to. The number of jurors ordered to stand by by the Crown in the case referred to was forty-three. The Crown Solicitor ordered the juror named to stand by, as he did all others, in the discharge of the duty expressly imposed upon him by the circular letter of February, 1894—namely, that while abstaining from requiring any juror to stand by on account of his political or religious opinions he should "direct to stand by all such persons as he should have reason to believe were likely to be hindered from giving an impartial verdict, by favour towards the accused or fear of the consequences to their persons, property, or trade."

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Were these forty-three men ordered to stand aside because their religion has been declared by the King to be abominable and idolatrous?

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! Hon. Members must not attempt to debate the answers.

FERMANAGH COUNTY SECRETARY.

Mr. JORDAN (Fermanagh, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the conditions under which the salary of the secretary of the County Council of Fermanagh was arrived at, namely, on the suggestion of the Court of King's Bench, that the secretary of the council and the county council should come to a settlement, and an adjournment of the case for a week for that purpose, and seeing that the Court confirmed the order of the Local Government Board against the efforts of the council, raising the salaries of the assistant county surveyors by 50 per cent., he will grant an inquiry if the County Council of Fermanagh are willing to pay the expenses of said inquiry.

Mr. WYNDHAM: I can only suggest, as I did on Friday last, that the best course will be to await the result of the Wexford inquiry.

ENNISKILLEN LAND APPEALS.

Mr. JORDAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state when the Land Commission will next sit in Enniskillen to hear the arrears of appeals to their Court in the county of Fermanagh.

Mr. WYNDHAM: No, Sir; the Commissioners are unable at present to assign a date.

PORTADOWN DISTURBANCES.

Mr. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to the frequency of the attacks made on the Roman Catholic Church, Edenderry, Portadown, especially within the last twelve months; whether he can state the number of times in that period the windows of the church referred to have been deliberately broken; and whether any report on the subject has been made by the local police authorities to the Castle; and, if so, whether any action, and, if any, what action, has been taken by the Executive in reference thereto.

Mr. WYNDHAM: Some panes of glass in this church have been broken within the past year on three separate occasions. Respectable people of all denominations have expressed their disapproval of these mischievous and wanton acts. They are believed to have been committed by boys; and windows, I may observe, have also been broken in the Protestant Church, also, I imagine, by boys. The occurrences were duly rereported by the local constabulary, by whom every effort was made to trace the guilty parties, though, I regret to say, without result.

Mr. CLANCY: Will the right hon. Gentleman further inquire?

Mr. WYNDHAM: If it is a question of my obtaining evidence where the police have failed, I doubt if I can succeed.

Mr. CLANCY: Has not the right hon. Gentleman received three letters from the Roman Catholics of Portadown on this subject, and not answered a single one?

Mr. WYNDHAM: That fact has not come to my knowledge.

SHILLELAGH UNION INQUIRY.

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can give the names of the witnesses summoned by Dr. Flinn on behalf of Nurse Joyce in connection with the recent Local Government Board inquiry at Shillelagh; also the names of those witnesses who gave evidence for Nurse Joyce and of those who did not give evidence.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The names of the persons summoned were Mrs. Brennan, Mrs. Nolan, Mrs. Moran, Mrs. Gregan, Mrs. Kavanagh, Mrs. M'Donald, Mr. Nolan, Mr. James. The first four gave evidence, the others either failed to attend the inquiry, or left before it concluded. Three other witnesses who were not summoned also gave evidence on behalf of the nurse—namely, the Rev. Mr. Busher, Mr. Trayner, and Mr. Byrne, chairman of the guardians.

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that a week ago he told me in answer to a question that sixteen witnesses had been examined?

*__Mr. SPEAKER__: Order, order!

IRISH BOARD OF WORKS.

*__Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN__: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Chairman of the Board of Works, Ireland, has resigned, and whether his resignation has been accepted; whether any appointment has yet been made to the office, and, if so, whether he can say who has been appointed, and what are his qualifications for the office.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: The present Chairman's term of five years expires at the end of this month. I hope to be able to announce the name of his successor in a few days.

CLONES RAILWAY GATES.

*__Dr. THOMPSON__: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he is aware of the inconvenience to the people of the town and neighbourhood of Clones, by reason of the obstruction to the traffic caused by the almost constant closure of the railway gates across one of the main roads leading into Clones, will he cause inquiry to be made whether a bridge over the crossing can be easily constructed, and if he will order an inspector to visit the place complained of and furnish a report to the Board of Trade of the result of his investigation of this public nuisance and danger.

MR. WALTER LONG (for Mr. GERALD BALFOUR): The questions affecting this level crossing have engaged the attention of the Board of Trade and an inspection was made last year. My right hon. friend will be happy to supply the hon. Member, if he so desires, with a copy of the inspector's report. I understand that the railway company are proposing to construct new sidings with the view of diminishing the amount of shunting over the crossing and have obtained powers for the purchase of the necessary land.

IRISH-SPEAKING POSTMASTERS.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether in appointments to the office of postmaster in Wales, a knowledge of the Welsh language is essential; and whether seeing that correspondents in the west of Ireland have had letters addressed in Irish returned to them as insufficiently addressed or not known; and whether he will take steps to prevent a recurrence of this by appointing for the present one or two Irish scholars to the office in Dublin, and by securing for future appointments in the Irish-speaking districts in Ireland postmasters with a knowledge of the language.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: In appointing postmasters at places where the Welsh language is in general use preference is given to candidates who have a knowledge of the language. In the Postmaster General's opinion, no sufficient reason exists for requiring a knowledge of the Irish language from postmasters or other servants of the Department in Ireland.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: Will the hon. Gentleman undertake to do what is asked in the last paragraph of the question?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I cannot make any promise. If the hon. Member has any special reasons to advance and will send them to me, I will forward them to the Postmaster General.

DUBLIN POST OFFICE REVISION.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether his attention has been directed to the revision of 1891, under which the scale of pay of the Dublin male supervising force was raised—namely, the scale previous to 1891 £150 per annum, rising by £8 per annum to £190, and the scale after revision of 1891 £200 per annum, rising by £10 per annum to £250; and, seeing that the former scale was retained for a clerks' class, but that all the members of this class in 1891 were advanced to the latter scale, their duties being identical with those performed by the female supervising force, whose maximum pay is only half that of males, whether the Postmaster General in the coming revision will grant the female supervising staff an increase in scale of pay, with the view of allaying the discontent which has long existed; and will he take steps to have open competitive examinations held in Dublin for at least some of the places by which it is intended to increase the Dublin female staff.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The Postmaster General is aware of the nature of the revision of 1891 under which the scale of pay of the Dublin male supervising force was raised; the female supervising force also obtained an improvement of pay and position at the same time. As was stated in reply to the hon. Member on the 7th instant, the scales for the female supervising force are those proper to their class at offices such as Dublin, and no reason is seen for increasing them. It is not possible to say at present whether any of the vacancies for female sorting clerks and telegraphists caused by the revision will be filled by open competition.

THE ROYAL DECLARATION AGAINST ROMAN CATHOLICISM.

MR. DELANY: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can inform the House when the Joint Committee on the subject of the Sovereign's Accession Oath and Declaration will be appointed; and whether he will consider the advisability of moving an Instruction to the Committee to inquire to what extent the Declaration is objectionable to Roman Catholics and likewise to the members of the Greek Orthodox Church.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: This matter has been initiated in another place, and until the House of Lords appoint the Committee, I am afraid we cannot take any steps; but I do not think there will be any delay in appointing the Committee.

MR. DELANY: Will the right hon. Gentleman answer the last part of the question?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think it would be undoubtedly open to the Committee to take evidence, if they wished to do so, as to the way in which the Declaration was objectionable to His Majesty's subjects.

MR. DELANY: Can the right hon. Gentleman inform me how many relatives of the King, including reigning sovereigns, belong to the Greek Church?

[No answer was returned.]

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will lay upon the Table of the House the resolutions condemnatory of the portion of the King's Accession Oath offensive to Roman Catholics which were passed by grand juries, county councils, corporations, district councils, and other public bodies in Ireland, and by representative organisations in Great Britain, Canada, Australia, the United States, and other foreign countries, in order that the Joint Committee of the Lords and Commons about to be appointed to inquire into and report on this matter may have the advantage of considering them before coming to a decision on the question.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think it necessary to publish the Return asked for. It will be in the competence of the Committee to call for any information they desire. I should have thought that the general topics suggested in the question are matters of common knowledge; and if they are not, the Committee will have full power to make themselves more fully acquainted with them.

*MR. WILLIAM JOHNSTON (Belfast, S.): Will the Committee be empowered to take evidence from Protestants who may object to any alteration in the Declaration?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: So I should suppose.

THE CIVIL LIST COMMITTEE—PUBLICATION OF CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS.

MR. ROCHE: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the recent unauthorised publication of documents laid before the Civil List Committee, he will consider whether effect should now be given to the recommendation of the Cottage Homes Bill Committee that the representative of the offending newspaper should be deprived of the *entrée* to the Lobby.

MR. YOUNG (Cavan, E.): At the same time may I ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the frequent unauthorised publication of official documents by *The Times* newspaper, he will now act upon the advice of the Cottage Homes Bill Committee and exclude its Parliamentary correspondent from the Lobby.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: In answer to these questions, I do not think I need do more than remind both hon. Members that this matter has been brought under the notice of Mr. Speaker, and that it will no doubt be dealt with by him as circumstances render desirable.

MR. ROCHE: Then I will respectfully address my question to you, Mr. Speaker.

*MR. SPEAKER: It is not a question of order or procedure, and such questions alone should be addressed to me.

Mr. ROCHE: May I remind the House that the recommendation of the Committee was that the Lobby representatives of newspapers who published privileged documents should be excluded from the inner lobbies of the House?

*Mr. SPEAKER: The House has entrusted to me the superintendence of the admission of the representatives of the press to the Lobby; but it will be impossible for me to perform that duty if I am to be questioned on the exercise of my discretion as though I were a Minister performing Ministerial duties.

Mr. O'SHEE: Then how, Sir, will you intimate to the House the course which you have taken?

*Mr. SPEAKER: When I do intimate it, the hon. Member will know.

Mr. ROCHE: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General whether it is proposed that the Government will institute proceedings under the Official Secrets Act against the newspaper in which publication was given to the confidential documents laid before the Civil List Committee.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs): I cannot add anything to the answer I gave the other day to the hon. Member for Dundee.†

CIVIL SERVICE REVISED SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) said he wished to ask a question of the First Lord of the Treasury with reference to the Supplementary Estimates. It seemed to him that these Estimates, in the form in which they were to-day presented to the House for the first time, would be put in one sum from the Chair. This would enable the whole of the amount to be taken at once if the Government in their necessity thought it expedient to do so. Formerly, each Supplementary Estimate was put separately from the Chair. He wished to ask why had this innovation been introduced without notice, and what opportunity would be given to the House to discuss it.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) said that this was a matter of the greatest importance affecting the procedure of the House, and in a few short sentences he would try and make the position quite clear. The Government in the usual course introduced the Supplementary Estimates under thirty-five different heads. Fourteen of these were discussed and disposed of. The fifteenth, the Vote for the Stationery Office, was at present under discussion. Now the Government were withdrawing the whole of the Supplementary Estimates, including the Vote under discussion, and were substituting a new Supplementary Estimate, not for a series of sums, each sum affecting a separate Department, but for one sum of nearly £1,000,000 covering the whole of the Departments. As far as the Civil Service Estimates were concerned, was this course not without precedent? Did the right. hon. Gentleman propose to inaugurate this new practice without any discussion whatever? Under the old practice each sum was voted for a particular Department, and no portion of one sum voted for one Department could be spent on another Department. If the whole amount was voted in one sum, however, would it not be competent to spend the whole of it on one Department or on two or three Departments? This being quite a new innovation in practice, did not the right hon. Gentleman think it right that the House should have a full opportunity of discussing it?

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.): The hon. Gentleman has with great clearness put several questions, and I will endeavour to answer them. One was whether the form now adopted of presenting the Estimate would enable one Department to spend money intended by the House for another Department—whether, in fact, the control over the allocation of the money would not be lost. In my opinion, no such consequence will follow from the change. The allocation of the money will be as strictly limited by law as if the ordinary form of the Estimates had been maintained. The hon. Member has also asked whether there is any precedent for such a procedure in the Civil Service Estimates. I do not know whether the hon. Member will call it a precedent, but there is the precedent of Excess Votes. The analogy between the two cases is close; Votes belonging to different Departments and dealt with by different Ministers are put together from the Chair as one sum.

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† See page 102 of this Volume.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I asked the right hon. Gentleman not whether there was any analogous case, but whether there was any precedent in Civil Service Supplementary Estimates.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: There is no precedent. The change has been made broadly in the interests of the discussion of the Estimates. The whole of the Estimates must be obtained in order to introduce the Appropriation Bill on this day week. I propose that the whole of the Parliamentary time between now and Monday, except Wednesday, shall be devoted to the discussion of the Estimates. Is it not better that the House should devote this time to the best purposes of debate, rather than that it should be engaged in voting time after time upon matters of relatively small importance, as we have, I regret to say, been doing? Undoubtedly the effect of the change will be to enable the whole question to be put as one from the Chair; but this will not preclude Amendments from being moved, nor will it curtail debate on any item in the Estimates. I think that if he will reflect for one moment, the hon. Member will see that the change is very much in the interests of full discussion in the House. In addition to the fundamental and important change about which questions have been asked, there have been two or three subsidiary and minor changes. The first is that I have omitted a Vote which might legitimately have given rise to some debate—the subsidy for the Viceroy of Wu-sung. It is not technically necessary to take that Vote on the Supplementary Estimates. Then there has been introduced the Estimate for the Queen's funeral, and I have altered the order of the Estimates so that the Votes which I believe excite most interest will not be put off by debates on minor matters.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: But the right hon. Gentleman has not answered my question as to what opportunity will be afforded the House for discussing this innovation.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I should hope that after my explanation there will not be any great desire on the part of the House to discuss the innovation. The circumstances are altogether special, and special means must be taken to meet them. The circumstances are well known to the House, and I hope that without further discussion the reasonableness of the course adopted will commend itself to all hon. Members.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee) said it appeared to him that this was simply a new kind of closure, invented to meet the temporary and passing exigencies of the present session, owing entirely to the late date at which Parliament was called together. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman whether, having invented it, he could not carry his ingenuity a little further and give the House an opportunity of saying whether or not it approved his action. Surely they were entitled to such an opportunity.

SIR JOHN BRUNNER (Cheshire, Northwich): If an Amendment were moved to an item low down on the list, would that preclude any discussion on items preceding it?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes, Sir.

MR. BLAKE (Longford, S.) said the effect of the change would be to concentrate discussion on one particular topic, and it would do away with the system of one Amendment one Vote.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have been asked whether my ingenuity cannot find time for the discussion of this change. I am glad the hon. Member for Dundee refers to it as ingenuity, but I must remind him that the most ingenious man cannot turn one hour into two or find time where it does not exist. It is no doubt in the power of the House to take time to discuss this change out of the available time for the discussion of the Estimates. If it is not in order to move the adjournment of the House, no doubt the question might be raised on the Estimates.

*MR. SPEAKER: There is some analogy in what occurred in 1890, when the late Mr. Smith laid Estimates on the Table of the House, and the number of Votes was reduced from, I think, 157 to 106, without any previous notice, by consolidating a number of the Votes. I remember that on that occasion an hon. Member asked whether he might move the adjournment of the House, and Mr. Speaker Peel informed him that the proper course would be to move to report Progress when the House went into Committee, and to raise the question in that way.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: The case which you have put before the House is not an exact precedent. It was a case where the number of Votes was reduced from 137 to something less, and a few of them were consolidated. This is a case where the remainder of the Supplementary Votes have been withdrawn, including one actually under discussion, and they have been consolidated in one sum which covers them all. In those circumstances I would ask permission to move the adjournment of the House in order to call attention to a definite matter of urgent public importance—namely, "the substitution for the Civil Service Estimates previously presented of a Supplementary Estimate for one sum covering all the various Departments, contrary to the uniform practice of the House."

*MR. SPEAKER: I shall not prevent the hon. Member from discussing the change. On the occasion to which I have referred, Mr. Speaker Peel recommended the hon. Member to deal with the matter in Committee, but I did not understand him to rule that it could not be done by moving the adjournment of the House. Has the hon. Member the leave of the House?

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): Before the hon. Gentleman moves his motion I wish to ask a question with regard to the answer just made by the First Lord of the Treasury. I understood him to say that under the Vote in its new form if a reduction was moved regarding one of the subjects which come towards the end of the Vote under discussion, that would cut out an Amendment upon an earlier item. I wish to ask whether it is not a fact that any Amendment moved must be an Amendment upon the whole sum, and whether it will not be entirely in the hands of the Speaker or Chairman to decide as to who speaks and in what order.

*MR. SPEAKER: I cannot anticipate the ruling of the Chair, and the ruling of the Chairman of Committees on the subject is a matter entirely for him. Has the hon. Member for Waterford the leave of the House?

The pleasure of the House having been signified—

MR. JOHN REDMOND: The first complaint which I have to make with reference to the action of the Government in this matter is that they are endeavouring to initiate an entirely new practice of far-reaching importance, almost, I would say, by stealth, but certainly without any notice whatever to anybody. I venture to say that in the whole House of Commons on both sides of the House there were probably not a dozen men who came down here this afternoon, who knew that this change was to be attempted to-day. These revised Supplementary Estimates were, it is true, circulated on Saturday, but, without any notice of any sort or kind which hon. Members would have been able to take cognisance of, this new rule has been sprung upon the House. I do not know what view the Liberal Members of this House take upon this matter, but it seems to me that the right hon. Gentleman and the Government are going steadily step by step along the road at the end of which absolute suppression of independent criticisms of the Estimates is the goal. If the right hon. Gentleman is allowed now with regard to Supplementary Estimates covering all the branches of the service to introduce it as one sum, so that only one division can be taken upon it, discussion upon the different items will be destroyed, because although the right hon. Gentleman pointed out to us that we might move Amendments upon each item, the next moment he had to admit that if an Amendment was moved upon some item low down in the list, that would preclude the possibility of moving any Amendment upon an item higher up in the list. If the right hon. Gentleman is permitted by the House of Commons to do this against the protest of a little group of hon. Members on the Irish benches—and I say that all the independent Members of this House, who desire to safeguard their rights and liberties should join in this protest—the next thing that will happen will be that on some future day you will find a Minister coming down to this House, and, not in a Supplementary Estimate, but in the original Estimate, proposing one sum to cover the whole series of services. This question affects the right of discussion in this House and the right of individual criticism by independent Members, and I respectfully submit that it ought to be considered solely and, indeed, entirely apart from the immediate needs or circumstances of the moment. The House of Commons, by authorising a practice like this, is establishing a precedent for all time. There may be Members of this House—probably there is a majority of Members of this House—who have such confidence in the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury, and in his having control of the financial concerns of the Empire, that they do not fear putting enormous powers into his hands. But they ought to think of the future, and it is impossible for them to foretell when the time may come when there may be in office a Government that they do not trust, and when there may be upon the Treasury Bench English statesmen controlling the financial affairs of the Empire, into whose hands they do not desire to have those enormous powers put. What would be the position of this House of Commons in the future if on the original Estimates for the year a procedure of this kind happened to be followed? It is no use for the right hon. Gentleman to say that this would never be done. I say that by sanctioning this new procedure on Supplementary Estimates you are creating something that will be quoted some day as a precedent for going further. It is a fatal practice from the point of view of the House of Commons itself, and from the point of view of independent Members. It is fatal to acquiesce without a protest in this continual encroachment upon our rights and liberties. So far as the Irish Members are concerned, we who come here from Ireland are bound to protest in the strongest and most effective way against this continual deprivation of those rights which we enjoy of discussing the government of our country. One effect of this new rule will be to abolish the possibility of divisions. On the Supplementary Estimates under the old practice every individual Vote is put separately from the Chair, and the discussion on that Vote is confined to that subject; and if there happen to be any Members of the House who are dissatisfied with the undertakings and explanations given by the Government they are entitled to register their disapproval by voting against the item in the lobby. That is all to be changed now, and these thirty-five different heads of Supply are all to be grouped together. There will be a general discussion on the whole Vote, and when one Member gets up and discusses one Department, the Member who immediately follows him will raise the discussion on another Department, and thus destroy any possibility of effective debate on any Department. Some hon. Member who is lucky enough to be called upon early in the discussion may move an Amendment dealing with some particular Department in which he happens to be interested, and will raise, perhaps, a question of £10, £20, or perhaps £70. If such a case happened, and the Member called upon by the Chairman moves an Amendment, that would preclude any single opportunity of discussion on any of the items that appeared on the list before it, although the subject under discussion might be the very last one of the thirty-five items. I think it is discreditable that a change of this magnitude should be brought on in this way without notice. It is conduct similar to what I characterised on a former occasion as Parliamentary sharp practice, and I do not believe any Government has anything to gain by it. If an alteration in the procedure of the House of Commons, so vast and far-reaching in its importance, is to be proposed by the Government, it ought to be done openly and aboveboard, after due notice has been given to the House of Commons, and after adequate discussion. This is an attempt to sneak through unobserved, and to smuggle this new practice into the orders and rules of this House, and to cheat the great bulk of hon. Members of their rights and privileges of debate.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I ought, perhaps, to tell the hon. Member that I took care on Saturday to inform the Leader of the Opposition of what was going to be done.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): He is not everybody.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No; but still it can hardly be said that I tried to sneak it through, if I told the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I do not believe in the efficacy of hard words. If the right hon. Gentleman objects to the words I have used I will withdraw them.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, I do not object to them.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: The Leader of the Opposition is not in the House, but his colleagues are there, and two of them have expressed dissent from what is proposed by the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am sorry to interrupt the hon. Member. I never suggested for a moment that the Leader of the Opposition concurred. I was only dealing with the question of informing him.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I would like very much to ask some of the hon. members of the Opposition upon that Front Bench, whether the notice conveyed to the Leader of the Opposition went any further, and whether it was conveyed to all the gentlemen upon that bench or to their followers. I venture to say, without fear of being contradicted, that so far as the bulk of the Liberal Members of this House are concerned, they never heard of this thing until now. [Opposition cheers.] Those cheers justify me in saying that so far as the bulk of the Liberal party is concerned it is true to say that an attempt has been made to smuggle this new rule unobserved into the Orders of this House. I do not understand the right hon. Gentleman's idea of notice. No one will contend that for this most important change, this most far-reaching change, in the rules of the House it is sufficient notice to give on a Saturday afternoon a private intimation to the Leader of the Opposition that it is intended to raise this question on the following Monday. Does the right hon. Gentleman not know that according to the rules of fairness and courtesy in this House notices of changes of this kind are always given publicly in the House, and that sufficient time is always allowed to elapse to enable hon. Members to consider what action they will take? With reference to the Leader of the Opposition this may have been done, but so far as the Irish party are concerned they got no notice at all. Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman thought we were so simple and ignorant of the forms of this House that this innovation would slip through without our notice. If so, he underrated our vigilance. I confess for myself quite candidly that I knew nothing about this till I came down to the House this afternoon, because I had been away in the country, and did not receive my Parliamentary Papers, but if I had received them I should not quite have appreciated what had occurred. I find that my own countrymen were more vigilant than myself, and they were quite alive to the importance of the step about to be taken. I protest about an effort being made to put this new practice into operation without any notice at all to the Irish party. The right hon. Gentleman will gain nothing now, or at any time in the session, by this effort to smuggle in this new practice and this new rule to suppress freedom of discussion upon the Estimates. I do not know how far the protest I desire to make will be supported by independent Members of the House generally. It will be supported, at any rate, by the entire body of the Irish Members, and so far as we are concerned, if it will be any comfort to the right hon. Gentleman, I may say to him that this new practice which he is trying to smuggle into the rules of the House will be a renewed incentive to us to scrutinise every item of Supply whether it affects Ireland or not, and to use every form and every rule and power we possess to prevent the possibility of the most important work of this House being stifled. One advantage the right hon. Gentleman has gained is that we must naturally speak here without looking into the precedents and without preparation. That probably has saved me some trouble and the House of Commons some time, because hon. Members might have had to listen to a much longer speech from me if proper notice had been given. What right has the Government to propose a change of this kind without giving us sufficient opportunities to look up the precedents and to come down here armed with the knowledge of what the House has done in similar cases in the past? I asked the right hon. Gentleman if there was any precedent for such a course, and he had to admit that there was not. No precedent for this vast and far-reaching change! Yet he comes down and absolutely endeavours to put it into operation without a word of explanation or apology, and without fortifying himself by even the precedents of analogous cases. There never was a case in my experience of this House when the adjournment of a question was more necessary. I do not want the House to be adjourned; I want this question to be adjourned, so that we may have a proper opportunity of looking into the precedents and practice of the past in order intelligently to discuss the matter. I make the motion "That this House do now adjourn," because that is the only form in which I can make my protest. My desire is to call the attention of the House of Commons to what is being done, and to ask that in fairness to the House the consideration of this new Supplementary Estimate should be adjourned. If this is not done this new Estimate will come before us to-night, because I am told that, again in violation of the practice of the House as far as I know it, on the Navy Estimates the Secretary to the Admiralty will make his statement with the Speaker in the Chair, and that the consideration of these Estimates will then be immediately adjourned. That is a violation perpetrated with the sole object of turning one of the recent ballots into a farce. We had a ballot for places for moving an Amendment on the question of the Speaker leaving the Chair on the Navy Estimates, and the first place happened to be won by an Irish Member, but in order to prevent him having the advantage of his good fortune this violation of ordinary practice is to be committed. The whole proceeding is most discreditable, and if for nothing else but the attempt which has been made to rush and smuggle this thing through, and to hoodwink Members of the House, I think a most determined protest should be made. With that object in view, I beg to move the adjournment of the House.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): I rise to second the motion. I cannot but think that if the Leader of the House will give this matter a little thought he will, before the debate goes too far, reconsider the course he has taken. I do not suppose it will be too late to omit these new figures at the beginning of the Estimate, and then proceed in the ordinary way. There could not be a moment in our proceedings when a violent change of this kind was more inopportune. On Friday last we granted quite twenty millions of Supply. An arrangement—most Members thought a harmonious arrangement—to facilitate the Government was agreed to by general consent, and I understand the right hon. Gentleman got all the Supply he required for the Army until the end of the financial year. I should have thought, after such an arrangement, that no other step of this kind could be necessary. The right hon. Gentleman has stated that he has arranged these Estimates in the way he thought the House desired to discuss them. I admit there is in the arrangement an attempt to meet the views of the House, in putting first the Vote for which we have been looking for weeks past. But there is this difficulty: the right hon. Gentleman cannot secure that the discussion should actually take place on that particular item. The right hon. Gentleman has admitted that. Any Vote may be taken, and a trifling point may cut out all the discussion on the most important Estimates. I would ask the House to look at these Estimates. The first three items are for three separate wars in three important dependencies of this country. There has been no discussion in the House with regard to any one of those three wars, and by the adoption of the change now made all discussion may be prevented. In the first war thousands of lives have been sacrificed. We have no particulars about the war in Somaliland. There is also the war in Uganda. There could not be an occasion upon which a violent innovation of this kind could be more out of place, and I do hope the right hon. Gentleman will reconsider the matter. I admit the difficulty is very great, as the Government must get their money this week, but I really think there are other steps open to the Leader of the House to secure his end. The discussions last week were not carried on in any unreasonable spirit, and it is a bad reward to take such a big step as is now contemplated.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Mr. John Redmond.*)

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): The hon. Members who have spoken have taken rather different ground in addressing themselves to the change which has been made in the form of this Supplementary Estimate. The hon. Member for Waterford took exception to it in the main because it was introduced, as he said, by stealth, because it was an attempt to smuggle through a great change without bringing it to the notice of Members of the House, and because it would form a dangerous precedent for the future. My right hon. friend the First Lord of the Treasury interrupted the hon. Member, and pointed out that he had himself taken the trouble to call the attention of the Leader of the Opposition to the change which was to be made, and I do not think any followers of the right hon. Gentleman have a right to take exception.

MR. HERBERT GLADSTONE (Leeds, W.): May I point out to the hon. Gentleman that the letter only reached the Leader of the Opposition on Saturday, and, so far as I am concerned, I learned of it only this morning.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The Estimates were circulated on Saturday, and on the same day my right hon. friend went out of his way to call the attention of the Leader of the Opposition to the change. I do not criticise the action of the right hon. Gentleman in the least, and I do not wish to imply that he or his colleagues accepted the change. My right hon. friend has said that the right hon. Gentleman did not accept it, but the fact that notice was given is incompatible with the charge of the hon. Member for Waterford. But the hon. Member says, "Oh, but there was no notice to the Irish party."

MR. JOHN REDMOND: To the House generally. My charge was that the universal practice of giving notice—namely, public notice, which would in the ordinary way reach every Member of the House—was broken.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: That practice was not broken. I do not wish to contradict the hon. Member rudely, but notice was given by the circulation of the Estimates. Those Estimates were in the hands of Members or at their addresses, comparatively early on Saturday morning. The hon. Member has himself answered his complaint. He says there was no notice, that he was out of town, and that he was not aware of the change, but in the next breath he told us, with some pride, that his colleagues around him had been more alert than he, and that they were perfectly well aware of the change. If they were perfectly aware of the change, what is the use of complaining that notice was not given? The hon. Gentleman went on to say that this would form a very dangerous precedent, which some day might be extended to other matters and seriously cripple the control of the House over expenditure. I confess I am somewhat surprised to hear from that quarter of the House the kind of argument known as the "thin edge of the wedge," which is so often the object of the denunciation of hon. Members opposite.

They complain sometimes that hon. Members on this side of the House object to a change for fear of the consequences which may follow; they then ridicule that fear, and we are adjured never to hesitate to do what is right in itself, because some unreasonable person may ask us to do something which is wrong in consequence. Both hon. Members who have spoken have very much overrated the importance of the change we have made, and have misunderstood its exact effect. The question of the form in which the Estimates should be presented has in past years, on more than one occasion, been before the House and before the Public Accounts Committee. If hon. Members will consult the Reports of the Public Accounts Committee they will find that what they lay stress upon is the right of the House to see that the money voted for particular purposes is applied to those purposes, that the appropriation of the money voted by the House is complete, and that the control exercised by the Treasury in the first place, and by the Public Accounts Committee and Parliament in the second place, is not lessened by any change in the form of the accounts. We have taken care in presenting this Estimate that the appropriation of the money should not be affected, and that the responsibility of the individual accounting officers should not be affected by anything we have done. Against every sum in this schedule the House has before it the name of the office and an indication of the accounting officer who will be responsible for the administration of the Vote, and no greater power to transfer money from one object to another, or from one subject to another, is given either to the Treasury or to any other Government Department than it at present possesses. If that is realised, hon. Members will see that there is no principle at stake in regard to the control of this House over finance, and that the question resolves itself into one merely of convenience—of the way in which the time at our disposal can best be disposed of and allocated to the business we have to perform. The hon. Member for West Islington alluded to the first two Votes, and said they raised very important questions in connection with wars which had not yet been discussed, and which the House was entitled to discuss. It is exactly in order to meet that that the Government have made this change. Those Votes are in Class 5, and as printed, and as they would have been taken under the first Supplementary Estimates they would come more than half-way down the list of Votes yet to be gone through. Therefore, with the very limited time at our disposal which can be allocated to the discussion of these Supplementary Estimates—— [AN HON. MEMBER: Why?] Because, as the Leader of the House has already explained, the Committee of Supply must be confined to this week, and Report taken on Monday next, if the law is to be complied with. Therefore, with the very limited time at our disposal, it was not only possible, but probable, if we continued to take the discussion of the Votes in the order in which they stood on the Paper, that these particular Votes would not have been discussed at all, but we should have continued to spend our time on far less important matters.

MR. LOUGH: One cannot move a reduction.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The hon. Member is mistaken; a reduction can be moved in respect of any item which stands in the Vote, and we have given to the House full information as to all the items and all the details of the items included in this lump sum of £893,000. Let me call the attention of the House to what has happened. In Committee of Supply up till to-day on the Supplementary Estimates we have already spent three days; and the portion of time we have still to spend upon them in their new form is the greater part of to-day and to-morrow. We shall have another day on Report, making not less than five or five and a half days in all for their discussion this year. I believe that on no single occasion during the last ten years have the corresponding Votes, together with their Report, taken four days, and only on four occasions have they taken as much as three days. [AN HON. MEMBER: They were never so large.] I find that in 1899–1900 there were seventeen Civil Service Votes, in 1898–99 twenty-four Votes, and in 1897–98 fifteen Votes.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): What about 1893?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I have not the references with me for that year, but for the last three years there were respectively seventeen, twenty-four, and fifteen Civil Service Votes, and in not one of those years did they occupy more than three days. Nor can it be said that the subjects in those years were less important than this year. I find that in 1899–1900 there came on the question of the purchase of the Niger Company, and in 1897–8 the special grants both for Uganda and East Africa in respect to the disturbed condition of those two countries, and especially the payment of compensation to the French missionaries in Uganda—a subject which excited, very properly, great public interest. I point out that the House is having this year more time for the discussion of the Civil Service Estimates than we have had in any of the ten preceding years. I would also call the attention of the House to the manner in which the time that has already been allocated to the purpose is being used. The Supplementary Navy Vote of three millions took part of a day, and the Supplementary Army Estimate—the importance of which nobody will deny—took half a day. But we have given two whole days to the consideration of the Supplementary Civil Service Estimates, and I will say that not a single Vote discussed on these days was of any special importance—[HON. MEMBERS on the Irish benches: Oh!]—or raised any question of real novelty or interest to the community at large.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON was understood to ask why the Government had not foreseen that these questions would be raised.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The hon. Member thinks that we ought to have been able to foretell last November or October twelve months what the price of coal would be during the past twelve months, or that we should have foreseen that there would be an opening of Parliament in state which required special provision to be made. I say nobody can pretend that two days were required to discuss these Votes, or that it was in the interest of the House itself, or of hon. Members who take an interest in important questions still to be discussed, to go on as we have done to-day. We have put down the Estimate in a new form, it is true, but we have put in the forefront the Votes which, from the notices on the Paper and the information which has reached us in the usual way, appeared to be the ones which hon. Members most wished to be discussed, and I had hoped that this arrangement would give fair opportunities for discussion. The hon. Member for Waterford complained that he had not had more notice of this change in order that he might have searched for precedents. This was unnecessary, because he has already been told by the First Lord of the Treasury that there are no precedents for bringing forward the Supplementary Estimates in this particular form, and therefore I think the time he might have given to research and discussion afterwards would have been fruitless. But there is a very close analogy—that of the Army and Navy Supplementary Estimates, which are invariably introduced in this form, under which there is nothing to prevent questions of even less importance than are involved in the Civil Service Votes being raised. A second analogy is the Excess Civil Service Votes, which are taken by one resolution; and there is also the analogy of the Vote on Account, where exactly the same form is employed. I beg to call attention again to the fact that, while the form in which these Estimates are put to the House is altered, the responsibility of the officials in charge of the administration is not abated, and that no greater latitude of appropriation is given to the Government than they already enjoy and use under the existing rules. When that fact is really understood, the House will see that the change is one that raises no great principle, but that it indeed offers the best chance of reasonable discussion on those Votes on which debate is wished. I trust the House will now hasten to close this not very profitable discussion, and that hon. Members will reserve all remarks that might be made for serious consideration until we reach Committee of Supply.

SIR ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs): The step which has been taken in altering the form of these Estimates is admittedly without precedent. It is, to my mind, still more significant that the practice which is now to be applied to the Civil Service Estimates has hitherto been, as the hon. Gentleman has said, applied to the Army and Navy Supplementary Estimates. Now, objection was most properly taken both to the manner and the matter of the change. The right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House told us that the Leader of the Opposition had received on Saturday a communication of the intention of the Government on this matter. I am very sorry that my right hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition is confined to his house and unable to be here this afternoon; but I am able to inform the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House, if he was not aware of it before, that the Leader of the Opposition strongly disapproves of this attempt to alter the practice of the House.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I said so.

Sir ROBERT REID: The right hon. Gentleman is particularly emphatic. I listened to every word he said, and what I have to complain of is that he did not profess that disapproval had been expressed by my right hon. friend. I say that there have been expressions of strong disapproval. I am not at liberty to speak for my right hon. friend, but I am certain that he would not have been prepared to say that notice of the change given to himself was sufficient in a matter of this kind, of which there ought to have been public notice. I myself cannot help thinking that this is a matter in which public notice should have been given. The only public notice given, so to speak, was by a mere circular sent out on Saturday morning. I do not know whether the Leader of the House is in the habit of staying in London from Saturday to Monday and studying the Parliamentary Papers issued on Saturday, on Saturday and Sunday; but a good many of us are not in that habit. And I maintain that notice on Saturday is somewhat tardy and inadequate. I come now to the question of the matter of the change. One result has been disclaimed by the hon. Gentleman opposite. He says he has informed himself that it will not enable the money to be applied in any different manner to what it would have been under the former form. Very well, suppose that is so; but the result remains that the whole thing can be ended by one closure instead of by twenty or more. A second result is, that instead of there being a regular and orderly discussion Vote by Vote, a detached and very often a confused discussion will be raised. The Chairman may think it proper to call one Member or another without being informed as to what subject that Member is going to speak about; and further, if a reduction is moved in regard to one of the later Votes, and accepted by the Chairman, that would preclude any subsequent reduction being moved on a prior Vote.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The hon. and learned Gentleman is aware that that objection applies *pro tanto* to any individual Vote in the present form, and that it is the of ʇıqɐɥ the Chairman, bearing that in mind, to give an opportunity to hon. Members before accepting an Amendment on a late Vote to move an Amendment on an earlier one.

Sir ROBERT REID: Within the limited range of the Army and Navy Votes the rule does not apply, and now it is to be applied to Civil Service Votes, which travel over a vast array of subjects—some of great importance, and some of which have never before appeared on the Estimates. In my humble opinion, this House is gradually becoming a Ministerial chamber, and not the House of Commons. Step by step the old privileges and facilities enjoyed by Members of the House of Commons, in their character as Members of the House of Commons representing their constituencies, are being curtailed and diminished in every direction. This is only one of the many changes which have taken place within the last four or five years. I think it is a serious one, and it shocks persons like myself who may claim to be old Parliamentarians. For my part, if the motion goes to a division I shall have great pleasure in recording my vote against the change.

*Mr. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet): I hope this proposed arrangement will not be persevered with, and that my right hon. friend, seeing the very general feeling of the House, will reconsider the determination he has come to. My hon. friend the Secretary to the Treasury fails to appreciate the objections to the change proposed, of which only one individual—no doubt a distinguished Member of the House—received intimation.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN dissented.

*MR. JAMES LOWTHER: At any rate, no public notice whatever was given, and only the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition received a private notice. I was indebted solely to the private information given me by one of the Opposition whips. When I came down this afternoon I said to him, "I suppose this will be a quiet evening," when he told me that he understood that an important question would be raised on the new form in which the Supplementary Estimates were to be presented to the House. I went to the Vote Office for details, and with the practical object of searching for precedents. I venture to say that there is absolutely no precedent for so materially altering the practice of Parliament behind the backs of hon. Members of this House. What does this amount to? We have already had every opportunity and facility taken away from individual and non-official Members for bringing on questions in which they are interested. Tuesdays are practically gone. Fridays are devoted to Supply; and now we are told: "Oh, never mind; you have forfeited your Tuesdays and lost your Fridays, but we have given you favourable opportunities for discussing in Supply anything which you have reason to complain of. And in addition to that, the debates on the Supplementary Estimates are not to be counted in the twenty-three days devoted to Supply," but now we find that so far from our being enabled to discuss the details of the Votes the whole lot may be put in a lump from the Chair without a syllable of discussion. Usually when a change of importance has been made in our procedure, it has formed the subject, not only of debate, but on most occasions the investigation of a Committee of some strength; but in this case we suddenly find we have no voice whatever in so vital an alteration of our procedure, and must sit down without expressing ourselves upon the passage of a rule which strikes in the direction of limiting the criticism of a number of Estimates which may all be put to the House in one Vote. Under this rule one subject may be started upon which nine-tenths of the House of Commons are in no way interested; some dull matter, such as education, which bores nearly everyone to death. In fact it is notorious that the personages who were somewhat irreverently spoken of by Sir Stafford Northcote as "the bonnets" are instigated to introduce such topics, and when that subject has drawn to an end the rest of the Vote may be closured. It seems to me that if we pass this rule we abandon one of the great functions of the House of Commons. This is not a small change, but a vast interference with the privileges of the Members of this House, and I strongly protest against it.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) pointed out that the evil of this rule, if passed, would be that very important matters might be dealt with without any attention having been directed to them, and without anyone being the wiser. Such a rule ought not to be brought forward in this manner, but only after due and proper notice had been given to the whole House. He regretted that, owing to the illness of the Leader of the Opposition, that question had not been raised on behalf of the whole House. He complained that it was almost impossible to tie the Government down to any promise with regard to this not being made a precedent. Why were a certain number of days to be allotted to the discussion of the Estimates, if the House was not to be allowed to discuss them? There was no real knowledge on the part of Members of the House of the change which this rule implied. It was perfectly true that a revised Estimate came on the previous Saturday, but there was nothing in the revised Estimate to attract the attention of the House to the change, and the overwhelming majority of the Members of the House would not notice from that revised Estimate that any change was being made in the procedure. One great difficulty presented by this change taking place in the discussion of the Estimates was that it allowed any inconvenient Estimate to be absolutely withdrawn from discussion. If the rule passed it could be closured upon the Committee stage, and again upon Report without any discussion being raised. If the suggestion thrown out on a former occasion by the Leader of the House that he would be willing to agree to a Committee being appointed to consider the order in which the Estimates were to be presented—a Committee in which all sections of this House should be represented—it would not remove the difficulty of the operation of the closure, but it would limit the difficulties experienced. It was not a matter to be decided by the Members on the two Front Benches alone, but by the entire House, and if the matter was carried through now, there was a danger that the House of Commons would lose all control over Supply.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE (Somersetshire, E.) said perhaps the Leader of the House did not imagine that there was a strong feeling with regard to this surprising innovation on that side of the House. It would be some alleviation if his right hon. friend could give them an assurance that this proposal was only made in view of the exceptional circumstances of the present occasion and was not intended to be made a precedent. He could not conceive, if it were intended to be a precedent, that it should be done in this manner.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Hear, hear.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE: I may take it, then, that it is not intended as a precedent?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Sir, what human being ever suggested it was?

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE said he understood, then, that it was not intended to be a precedent, but was only made in view of the very exceptional circumstances. But even if that were the object, he thought it might have been done in a somewhat different manner, and he appealed to the right hon. Gentleman that some proper consideration might be given to the subject by a Committee selected from all sections of the House. A Select Committee was the only means by which they might come to anything like an agreement as to the procedure on important questions of Supply.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.): The Leader of the House evidently shares the opinion of his distinguished relative, that Parliamentary administration is rather a nuisance. The right hon. Gentleman has done more this session to revolutionise Parliamentary methods by side winds than has ever been done before. To-day we have brought before us the most extraordinary arrangement for the discussion of the Estimates the House has ever seen, an arrangement which would never have been tolerated by the House in years gone by. The Secretary to the Treasury told us that this arrangement was conceived for the convenience of debate, and that the form in which this Estimate was brought up would enable hon. Members to discuss any matter in which they were interested much more easily than would have been possible under the old system. Here is a long list of nineteen Votes, the last of which is for a sum of £10, while the entire list totals up to nearly £1,000,000. As I understand, it would be possible for me to move to reduce that last Vote by anything up to £10, and to prevent any other Member discussing either of the eighteen more important matters which come before it. That shows that instead of facilitating debate, this arrangement is only the closure in another form. The hon. Member for Waterford has taken the lead in the protest he has made on behalf of the rights of private Members, and he spoke naturally as the representative of Members from Ireland. There is a point of very great importance to us in this arrangement of Votes. If this precedent is established, what is there to prevent the Irish Government coming down with the whole of the Irish Estimates in this form, with some little ridiculous Vote at the end, so that we should be allowed only one division and practically one discussion? My hon.

friend has performed a most important public service in calling attention to this matter, and as far as we are concerned we shall oppose the proposal by every means in our power, because we foresee the extraordinary inroads it may make upon the rights of private Members, and the dangerous precedent it will set for future action.

LORD HUGH CECIL (Greenwich): I rise to say a few words in protest against the suggestion that the feeling on this side of the House is entirely adverse to the action of the Government in this matter. I admit that there are warm feelings on this side as to the way in which the business of the House is conducted, but they do not point in the direction indicated by my hon. friend the Member for East Somerset. The feeling is that a very great deal too much consideration is shown to hon. Gentlemen opposite, and certainly we should not throw obstacles in the way of the Government when they are doing something, at any rate, to ensure that the views of the majority should prevail in the House. It is said that sufficient notice was not given. But these Estimates are not the first Order on the Paper; therefore the time occupied with the Navy Estimate will be available for hon. Members to acquaint themselves with the particulars of the Estimates affected by this arrangement. I can understand that Members want to know when a subject is coming forward in order that they may look up their facts and prepare the speeches they intend to deliver, but everybody knew that Civil Service Estimates might be discussed to-night, and, for the purposes of their speeches, it makes no difference whether the subjects are in one or many Estimates. Therefore, for all purposes of debate, the notice was ample. I cannot myself see why the question of notice is so important. Reference has been made to Uganda. Hon. Members will, of course, spend the same time in getting up their speeches with regard to Uganda, whether the subject is discusssd on a separate Vote or as an item of the whole Vote.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: That is not the kind of notice to which we were referring. We were referring to the notice which, in our opinion, ought to have been given of a fundamental change in the procedure of the House.

LORD HUGH CECIL: However much notice was given, could hon. Members have made a more effective protest than they have done?

MR. JOHN REDMOND: Then do away with the House of Commons altogether.

LORD HUGH CECIL: This is, in fact, a great innovation in the true interests of legitimate debate. What are the peculiar circumstances of the moment? The most peculiar circumstance is that the Government are not bringing forward any legislation whatever. The most factious Opposition desires only, I should have thought, to impede the Government in doing that of which they disapprove. The object of obstruction, as far as it is legitimate at all, is to put off the Government's proposals, to drive them back, and make them more or less impossible of achievement. That question does not arise on this occasion at all. These Estimates must, in accordance with the law, be agreed to by the 31st March. Therefore, obstruct as much as we please, we cannot possibly prevent the Government doing anything they choose after Easter. This arrangement cannot form any precedent for innovations in procedure for facilitating legislation which, in the opinion of any section of the House, is of a dangerous or revolutionary character. In 1893, as far as I can learn from a study of the newspapers, the object of the long discussions on the Supplementary Estimates was to postpone the second reading of the Home Rule Bill. That is a case utterly remote and different from the present case. It would, indeed, be a very serious matter if the Government were to take special facilities, not merely to comply with the law as regards financial business, but to facilitate their own legislative proposals. That would be a very dangerous and serious innovation, but this is nothing of the kind. This is merely an emergency measure which must be adopted unless the law is to be disobeyed. If this alteration were not made, the only alternative would be putting all the Votes from the Chair at a given hour, or to have all-night sittings. Is it suggested that the present method gives less facilities for discussion? The whole matter is as plain as a pikestaff. If there is only a certain amount of time to be given to the subject, you must take measures to get the subject disposed of in the time, and this measure is the least offensive and oppressive that could be devised. The truth is that the House of Commons is in the position of wanting—I was going to say to eat its cake and have it; but really the position is that of wishing to have a cake which the Irish Members have already devoured. I feel the warmest commiseration for hon. Members on either side of the House whose only desire is for legitimate discussion of the Supplementary Estimates, but the violence of their denunciations should be directed against, not the Government, but the hon. Gentlemen from Ireland who have abused the opportunities of debate. If hon. Gentlemen above the gangway opposite wish to see the business of the House conducted in such a way that all that they desire to say should have a proper opportunity for utterance, their best course is to co-operate with the Government to the utmost in suppressing the exuberant verbosity of hon. Members below the gangway.

*SIR BRAMPTON GURDON (Norfolk, N.): As I was engaged for many years in the preparation of these Estimates, I have some experience of the manner in which they are put together and the object for which they are framed. I am perfectly ready to admit that it would not be possible to transfer money from one Vote to another, or even from one sub-head to another, without the approval of the Treasury, but I cannot imagine what advantage the Government think they will gain by this new method which they have introduced. It will be productive of very great inconvenience, especially to the Chair. The Treasury have always tried, by the arrangement of the Estimates into classes, Votes, and sub-heads, to afford the clearest possible information as to the subjects referred to; they have endeavoured to put those subjects together so as not to be too large or too small, and to present completely one subject in a compact form, so that the House might deal with and dispose of one subject before it passed on to another. All that is done away with by this new plan. Under this arrangement one hon. Member may discuss the Colonial Office; if he does not move an Amendment by which the House is precluded from passing to another subject, the next speaker may deal with the Postal Service, and a third may speak about the Diplomatic and Consular Services, and so on. We should get into a most unbusiness-like discussion, without, as far as I can see, any compensation whatsoever. It is said we should get one closure motion instead of twenty. I do not believe we should get even that advantage, because it will be open to a Member to move a reduction of the Vote by £1, £2, £3, or £10, and the closure may be necessary on each. The Secretary to the Treasury says we had full notice of this change. I must confess that when I received this Paper on Saturday morning I looked through it very carefully, but with all my twenty-two years' experience at the Treasury I did not observe these few words at the beginning. I noticed the new arrangement of Votes, and I thought it a most excellent plan to put these important items in the forefront, but all that advantage is done away with by these few words at the beginning, which practically put all the items on the same line, so that there is no reason why we should discuss one before another. I earnestly hope the Government will withdraw their scheme, and consent to introduce the Estimates in the old-fashioned and constitutional manner.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Warm protests have been made by various Members of the House in regard to the policy pursued by the Government in this matter, and so well defended by my hon. friend the Secretary to the Treasury. But almost every speaker—I think I might say every speaker except one—has carefully refrained from making the slightest allusion to the governing consideration in the matter—namely, the position in which we find ourselves when we are face to face with Supplementary Estimates and the close of the financial year. The hon. Member who has just spoken based his appeal on his great experience at the Treasury, and he told us that in all that experience he had never known this course to be pursued. No, Sir; it never has been pursued with regard to Supplementary Estimates, though it has with regard to Estimates of the other kind. But has my hon. friend, in the course of his experience at the Treasury, ever known the House apparently driving the Government—or driving itself, because I suppose it is *particeps criminis*—into a deliberate breach of the rules laid down by itself with regard to its financial business? My hon. friend has never known such a case, and therefore his experience gives no weight to his objection to a remedy proposed to meet so novel and serious a proceeding.

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON: I have hardly ever known the House to be called together so late.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Gentleman by his interruption has brought us back, not for the first, second, or third time, to the excuse habitually urged by those who have nothing else to say. The meeting on the 14th February was determined before it was possible for anyone to know the amount of the Supplementary Estimates, and, even if the amount had been known, would that date have been an improper one for us to have fixed? In other words, is the House really incapable of getting through the King's Speech and the necessary Estimates in the interval between 14th February and 31st March? I really cannot believe that that is the case. If such a scale of time is to be applied to all Parliamentary action, I can only say the sessions will have to be prolonged—a course, in my opinion, not to the advantage of either the comfort or the efficiency of the House. I have always been anxious to keep the session—I will not say within the limits of six months, but somewhere approaching that period, and I believe a six months session is quite enough considering the pressure at which we do our work; moreover, we had an autumn session, and, under all the circumstances, I do not think the 14th February was too late a date to fix for the opening of Parliament. But let us turn aside for a moment from the action of the Government in opening Parliament on the 14th February, and whether they were right or wrong in so doing. Does the House really mean to affirm that between the 14th February and the 25th March we ought not to be able to get through all our financial business, provided the Government does not bring forward any substantial controversial legislation?

MR. JOHN REDMOND: It depends on the management of that business.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: What does that vague assertion, which is so commonly hurled across the floor, mean? The hon. Member complains of my management of the business of the House. My management of the business of the House has consisted simply in putting down Supply night after night since 14th February.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: No.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: In what has it consisted, then?

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I mean the constant irritation of unnecessarily moving the closure.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I see. It is the number of times I have moved the closure, is it? I will ask two questions on that. In the first place, where should we have been with regard to the Estimates if I had not moved the closure; and, in the second place, where should we be on the 31st March if I had, as I should have had, to move the closure on every Vote before we could get the Supplementary Estimates?

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: The Speaker objected to your moving it the other night.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: How on earth we were to get the Supplementary Estimates within the limit of the law without the use of the closure I do not know. So much for this, if I may say so, threadbare and absurd accusation with regard to meeting so late as 14th February. If we had met previously to that the hon. Gentlemen who now complain would have been the first to grumble because we met so early.

I now leave that, and come to the substance of this question. Are we guilty of an innovation which is, in the first place, dangerous, and, in the second place, unnecessary, in the procedure of the House? Those are the two points to consider. If it is necessary, it really does not matter whether it is dangerous or not; that which is necessary is that which has to be done. But is it dangerous? I have been spoken of to-night, as I have been spoken of in previous debates, as if I was hostile to the full and free discussion of the Estimates. I venture to say that nobody in his heart believes that. No one has more anxiously shown his desire than I have both that there should be an adequate time given to the discussion of the Estimates, and that the Estimates to be discussed should be as far as possible taken in the order of their importance, and I have passed a great many innovations in our rules having those two great ends in view. If I have—as I think I may claim that I have—shown my desire that the Estimates should be fully discussed, have I in this case been driven, whether under stress of real necessity or not, to a course which is in itself dangerous? It will be observed that hon. Members' imaginations reach forward to some future period when there shall be some unscrupulous Minister in power who will use this weapon for the suppression of the House at large and for the throttling of discussion. But this weapon has always been, for what it is worth, in the possession of the Government of the day. I cannot believe that any unscrupulous Minister would be in the least degree influenced by the fact that, in the face of what I have shown to be a real necessity, we have done with the Civil Service Estimates that which we have done with criticism, comment, or inconvenience in the case of the Army Estimates, the Navy Estimates, and Excess Votes. We have been told that one inconvenience of this method is that Members will jump from Vote to Vote, and that we shall have a miscellaneous and inconsequential discussion. I hope that will not be the case. This Vote is framed exactly on the model of the Vote on Account, and I do not think the discussions on Votes on Account have gone on in an inconsequent way from one subject to another. In fact, I have known a whole evening to be devoted to the very first item. [Hear, hear.] Hon. Members say "Hear, hear," but you cannot have it both ways.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND: By arrangement the whole night was spent on the first item, but the rest were closured.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Member is mistaken. The only arrangement was as to the order in which the first two items of the Vote on Account should be put down. The House chose to discuss the Education Vote for the whole of the evening. That is the affair of the House, and the House will be able in a similar manner if it choose—as I hope it will not choose—to spend its time on the first one or two items in the Vote now presented. There is no danger in the course we have adopted, because it is a course obviously and avowedly adopted in an emergency. The hon. Member for East Somersetshire wished to get a specific pledge or declaration from me. I thought I gave a specific pledge or declaration in reply to a question earlier in the evening. But if the hon. Member desires such a pledge—I should have thought it unnecessary—I will give it in the most unreserved fashion The only reason this course has been adopted is that we found ourselves driven off from day to day by the length of the discussion on the Civil Service and other Estimates until it was perfectly obvious that if we were to fulfil the law it would be only by the goodwill of those who have not shown up to the present any great anxiety that we should be able to fulfil it.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: Will the right hon. Gentleman kindly say what is the pledge he has unreservedly given?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: The statement I made was that this is an emergency operation, and an emergency operation alone. The House in dealing with a practical question ought to show itself a practical assembly. Everybody knows the situation in which we are placed and the methods by which it has been brought about. We need not bandy hard words as to what has taken place. Let us describe it as an intelligent interest in Estimates. That "intelligent interest in Estimates" has, for example, been shown with regard to a Vote of £5,000 caused entirely by the rise in the price of coal. That "intelligent interest in Estimates" has been carried to such a point that that £5,000 was discussed for at least an hour or two in Committee, and, as if that left hon. Gentlemen unsatisfied, they discussed it for another hour and a half on Report.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Hear, hear.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Gentleman is quite right from his own point of view to be proud of the achievement. Yes, but you cannot have "intelligence" carried to that point without clogging the whole machinery of Parliament. I am attacked because I do not find more opportunities for private Members. It is the "intelligence" of private Members that puts me in the difficulty. It is this "intelligent interest," carried to the excess we have recently seen, which makes it impossible for me to leave Tuesdays for the discussion of abstract resolutions, and which makes the proposed arrangement of this Estimate absolutely necessary. What other course could I have taken? I assume we are all agreed that Supply must be concluded this week. That is the basis on which I start. Nobody will, at all events openly, say that they desire us to violate the statute and regulations laid down for our financial business. Very well. We have got before us—I am very unwilling to take Wednesday, because that day happens to be allocated to a Bill which excites a very great deal of interest; therefore, we have Monday Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, with possibly Saturday, in which to dispose of Supply. In those days we have got to get the Speaker out of the Chair on Navy Estimates; we have got to get Vote A and Vote 1 of the Navy Estimates; we have in addition to get nineteen further Votes of Supply. We have already got ten Votes, but they were of an utterly trivial and unimportant character, and raised no questions of real interest whatever. We have already obtained ten Votes, but, although they were of little interest, they occupied two long days. We have nineteen more Votes before us which are of far greater importance, and, in addition, the Navy Estimates, and for the consideration of these we have only four days, or, with a Saturday sitting, five days. I do not believe that would be enough. If I do not misread the signs of "intelligent interest" that has been shown in these Votes, there will be an Amendment moved to every one. Someone has suggested that we should manage by closure, but three divisions on each of these nineteen Votes would mean fifty-seven divisions, and I do not think it would be possible to get through those divisions in less than twenty hours, or two normal Parliamentary days out of the five possible days at our disposal. I am not talking of debate, but only of walking through the lobbies. Am I to be told that, having submitted respectfully that calculation to the House, our existing rules of closure are sufficient to enable us to finish Supply satisfactorily with reasonable discussion even by Saturday evening? I am quite sure that any candid man will see that I have not over-estimated the difficulties I have endeavoured to describe. What other course remains besides the one we have adopted? I might have come down on Tuesday or Thursday and moved a rule similar to the rule made with regard to general Supply, declaring that at a given hour on Friday night or Saturday afternoon the Committee of Supply should be closed and all the various Votes taken in their order, and that a similar operation should apply to the Report of Supply. But I suppose we would have occupied a night in discussing such a proposal—[AN HON. MEMBER: I hope so.]—and when we had discussed it I suppose it would have been necessary to bring forward a rule for shortening the divisions. These are two plans. Can anybody suggest a third except the one I have adopted? There is no third.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs): By not spending the time of the House in altering its rules.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not know whether the hon. Gentleman supposes that he has suggested a plan for getting Committee of Supply finished this week. The House will see, therefore, that the course we have adopted is one that has been absolutely forced upon us by the necessities of the situation. It is one which I hope will prevent undue strain, but whether it causes undue strain or not it is the one that holds out more hope than any other plan that we shall be able to finish Committee of Supply within the time contemplated. I hope that I have used no undue strength of language. I have stated the motives which have influenced our action, and I have justified to the best of my ability the course which, by the force of circumstances, we have taken. Do not let anybody suppose that I watch these proceedings, or their result, with satisfaction or with equanimity. I regard them as most serious. It was long ago pointed out—I think it was by Mr. Gladstone, but I am not sure—that one or two ingenious men devoting themselves to the consideration of the Estimates could keep the House occupied during the whole of the six months. You could not work these nineteen Votes by the closure. [An HON. MEMBER signified that they could.] In order to meet the interruption just made let me change the form of my proposition. One or two ingenious gentlementaking an intelligent interest in the Estimates would be in a position to compel the closure upon every Vote that was brought before the House, without the smallest difficulty and without any undue taxing of the rules. I think there were more than two ingenious gentlemen in the House who engaged in the intelligent discussion of the Estimates. The result was, of course, necessarily that, before the new rule came into force, Supply had become a perfect scandal, and no Government could allow it to intefere in that way with the business of the House. We sat up night after night discussing Votes like the £5,000 Vote I have already mentioned. I hope that the Supply rule has done something to cure this with regard to the main Estimates of the year. We have left the Supplementary Estimates exactly where they always stood, and hon. Members who have not been in the House before will have a very accurate idea of what used to go on in connection with the ordinary Estimates by seeing what has gone on during the last few days in connection with the Supplementary Estimates. The right hon. Baronet the Member for Forest of Dean has referred to the suggestion to appoint a Committee to consider the sequence of Votes to be taken in ordinary Supply. That is a little outside the motion now before the House, but allow me to say that I think it would be of great advantage that there should be a Committee of this House to settle in the first place what proportion of our general time should be given to the discussion of Supply. That cannot now be left to the discretion of the House itself; it must be laid down by rule. Let a Committee suggest rules for the purpose; let them suggest whether the present twenty-three days given for Supply are enough, whether they ought to be augmented, how the time between them should be distributed, and how the Supplementary Estimates should be dealt with. I have not the slightest objection to that. If anybody can suggest a plan by which the liberty of discussion shall be freely used and not unduly abused, no one will rejoice so much as I will. The question before us now is, how are we to deal with an emergency? I do venture to think that, whether the House regards the Government as to blame or not for having met on the 14th of February, we are all agreed that there is but one way to get our Votes through by the legal day, and that is the way the Government has adopted. If the House take that view, as I think they must, they must defer to a more convenient season the broad question of the procedure in Supply, and if they desire that it should be considered by a Committee upstairs or elsewhere, I shall give any such desire my hearty support.

SIR HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): The right hon. Gentleman complains that upon this side of the House we have not shown any appreciation of the difficulty in which he is placed. We do appreciate the position in which the right hon. Gentleman finds himself, and I think that we on this side of the House have shown a desire that that should be met. What we do object to is the course which the right hon. Gentleman proposes to take. We recognise the difficulty, but we are not satisfied with the remedy. The proposal is dangerous, but is it necessary? Without touching on the question of necessity for a moment, I venture to say that it is a very dangerous proposal—dangerous from the mode in which it has been initiated, and dangerous from the precedent it will set up, and which—I will not say in all probability—will with absolute certainty be followed hereafter whenever a Ministry with a majority finds itself in a difficulty. There is no analogy, as the right hon. Gentleman puts it, between this case and the case of a Vote on Account. The justification for bringing a Vote on Account——

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he spoke of the Army and Navy Excess Votes.

SIR HENRY FOWLER: The justification for abbreviating the discussion of a Vote on Account is that every item will come up for consideration on Report. These, I think, will never come up again. I think the House of Commons ought to have the power of criticism, and we have a right to claim that there should be fair criticism of the large sum of the additional Votes. These Supplementary Estimates are almost without precedent. I think the right hon. Gentleman will have to go back many years before he finds Supplementary Estimates of between £1,000,000 and £2,000,000. I think it was the boast of the right hon. Gentleman himself—it certainly took place during an Administration of which he was a member—that there were no Supplementary Estimates at all. Without claiming any special knowledge in the present case, I think I may venture to assure the right hon. Gentleman that when the meeting of Parliament was fixed he knew there would be Supplementary Votes of large amount, and I do not think he was taken by surprise to such an extent as he seemed to indicate. The right hon. Gentleman puts the case on the ground that the Opposition show no disposition to meet him in dealing with the present difficulty. Well, I venture to say that the Opposition showed in all directions considerable desire to meet him on Friday night.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am most unwilling to interrupt the right hon. Gentleman, but I never said anything of the Opposition as a whole. I said that no speaker to-night has shown any appreciation of the difficulties of the Government.

SIR HENRY FOWLER: I was putting it perhaps clumsily, but I understood him to say that there was no indication of any desire to meet the difficulties of the Government.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No.

SIR HENRY FOWLER: I withdraw that remark at once. When the right hon. Gentleman was in difficulty on Friday night he was met, and £21,000,000 was voted almost without discussion. I fully appreciate the difficulty which the right hon. Gentleman has at the present moment. I do not think he has exhausted all the resources of negotiation. I am sure that there was a mode of meeting the difficulty without any violation of the law, which would not have involved this new and dangerous innovation in the previous practice of the House. The right hon. Gentleman says it is necessary. May I have his attention for one moment as to the necessity of the case so far as these Votes are concerned? He says it is absolutely necessary that Supply should be finished on Saturday. May I put to him that Monday could be taken for Supply, and that the Report could be taken on Tuesday? The Appropriation Bill could be brought in on Tuesday, and the Second Reading of the Bill could be taken on Wednesday.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Private Members' day.

SIR HENRY FOWLER: Somebody must suffer. It is not the private Members' day this week that I propose should be taken. I am talking of the following week. I am proposing that the Second Reading should be taken on Wednesday next week, the Committee stage on Thursday, and the Third Reading in this House and the stages through the House of Lords on Friday. Therefore it is not absolutely necessary that Supply should be closed on Saturday this week. I would put it to the right hon. Gentleman before he finally announces his decision in this matter that by the introduction of this new rule I do not believe he will save any time. I should advise the right hon. Gentleman to close the discussion next Monday. Under these circumstances he will have the opportunity of getting the Speaker out of the Chair on the Navy Estimates, and getting the two Votes with the same rapidity as he got his two Votes in Supply upon the Army. He would thus, I think, give a fair opportunity for moderate discussion upon these Estimates. Let me strip it of all the circumstances which have aroused the right hon. Gentleman's apprehension. There are some very important questions in these Supplementary Estimates—questions which will require a considerable amount of discussion. There are questions in the Supplementary Estimates which ought to be discussed more than a few minutes. I think the right hon. Gentleman should come to some understanding with the House that Supply should close on Saturday, and that the two Navy Votes should be obtained on the understanding that the full discussion of the naval programme should be taken after Easter. There would then remain simply these Supplementary Estimates and the Report stage upon those Votes which have already been before the House. I would submit to him that it would be far better to come to some arrangement of that sort than, if I may say so, declare war on the procedure of the House, which some hon. Members consider an invaluable safeguard of the control of the House over Votes in Supply. I am quite satisfied that the right hon. Gentleman is right in saying that there must be an entire reconsideration of the mode in which Supply is voted, and the time devoted to it, and the carrying out of the rule which the right hon. Gentleman himself introduced. I think that can be put on its own merits. The Government is in an *impasse* at the present moment. Do not let the remedy be dangerous and disastrous.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: The right hon. Gentleman has made a proposal to me. I think he will feel that he is placing me in an impossible position when he asks me to take one Wednesday and not another. That would scarcely be fair. Nothing would give me more pleasure than that Committee of Supply should finish on Saturday afternoon, that the Report stage should be taken on Monday, that we should then be able to reserve Wednesday for private Members, and that we should be able to finish Supply in time to comply with the law. I do not know whether the modified proposal of the right hon. Gentleman would be accepted in all parts of the House, but if so, I would be delighted to fall in with it. I know that some arrangements when acceded are never broken. Therefore, if a pledge is given, I shall be happy to accept it.

Sir HENRY FOWLER: I was not aware that the private Members' Bill set down for Wednesday is a very important one. I understand that it is the Pure Beer Bill. I do not wish to immolate that Bill unnecessarily. If you get your Report on Monday it would not be necessary to sacrifice the Bill.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: The right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Wolverhampton has just made a proposal to the Government, and I hope it will not be unbecoming if I say that his action is, to say the least of it, rather curious in this matter. He says first of all that the proposition of the Government is a dangerous proposition, and he objects to it. He then winds up his speech on the dangerous proposition by proposing to enter into an agreement with the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury. I think the proposition made by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Wolverhampton is, so far as I can understand, very little better than the proposition of the First Lord of the Treasury, and I think it would be more satisfactory, if I may say so, to a great many gentlemen of the Liberal party who resent innovations of this kind if, instead of coming down at the last moment to patch up an agreement to make easy the path of the Government, the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Wolverhampton had been in his place early in the evening to oppose this latest attempt on the part of the Government to muzzle the House of Commons. The right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury can hardly be surprised, I think, if he does not find the Irish Members enthusiastic to enter into a fresh agreement with them. What took place last Friday? An agreement was made with the Government, under which they were allowed to get in one sitting the whole of the Army Estimates, amounting to the sum of £21,000,000. That sum was voted on Friday night in the space of about twenty minutes, and now what return do the Irish Members get for the enormous concession they made then? Our reward is, that when the House meets on Monday the right hon. Gentleman gets up and proposes to curtail in a new way the privileges and the rights of private Members in connection with the discussion of the Estimates. I say that as long as the Government reward agreements entered into with their opponents in that way they can hardly be surprised if there is no desire to make further agreements with them. The right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury in the last speech he made referred in a somewhat pointed way to the discussion which took place on the Estimates last week. He said that two hours were taken discussing an item of £5,000, and even from the lofty position which the right hon. Gentleman occupies, he did not hesitate to speak in a disparaging way of what he called the intelligent criticism of hon. Gentlemen from Ireland. The right hon. Gentleman may imagine that Members from Ireland ought to discuss the Estimates in a way that ought to commend itself to his way of thinking and to his satisfaction. If he expects that hon. Members from Ireland are in these matters always to imitate the example of his noble relative the Member for Greenwich, and to get up on every conceivable occasion and say that what the Government has done is perfectly right, he is greatly mistaken. I pass from that by saying that what I know of the methods with respect to the "intelligent discussion" of items in the Estimates I learned, not yesterday, or the day before, but years ago, from the action of a certain party in this House which was called the Fourth party, of which the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury has probably heard.

What is the answer to the appeal made by the First Lord that this must be done, as the Estimates must be got through by the end of the month? The answer is obviously that the Government should have called Parliament together in proper time to give Members full opportunity for discussing the Estimates as they considered necessary. The right hon. Gentleman, if the House allows him to have his way, is simply setting up a precedent whereby probably next year he will call Parliament together not on the 14th of February, but probably the 1st of March or the 14th of March, and then if any attempt is made to criticise or discuss the Estimates he will have the same story as he has now, that discussion must be curtailed because by the end of the month the Estimates according to law must be carried through. He is setting up a precedent which will make it easy for any Government in future to curtail discussion and to stifle all criticism by the simple expedient of not calling Parliament together until it is too late to say anything upon the Estimates. The right hon. Gentleman in reply to the Member for East Somerset said he was prepared to give the pledge that this proposition was simply an emergency proposition. I tried to get some understanding as to the nature of the pledge the right hon. Gentleman gave, but I think it is clear that he gave no pledge whatever. Is he prepared to get up now and say that no such proposition will be made by the Government next year, or at any future time? If this proposition is ratified by the House of Commons, nothing is more certain than that it will form a precedent for the future. The right hon. Gentleman knows perfectly well that it is only necessary for the rule to be established and acted upon in this House to make it absolutely certain that time after time in future it will be quoted as a precedent. The First Lord of the Treasury indignantly repudiated the idea that this innovation was sprung upon the House of Commons without any notice. He said, "Why, I gave notice of this to the Leader of the Opposition." I have the pleasure and the distinguished honour of meeting the Leader of the Opposition sometimes in the lobbies of this House, but I never meet him on Saturdays or Sundays at all, and the fact that the First Lord of the Treasury late on Friday night or early on Saturday morning sent word to the Leader of the Opposition that he was going to do this is not the slightest guarantee that I or my friends ever heard anything at all about it. I say we have a right to expect in future that when an absolutely unprecedented change is about to be made the Government should at least give several full days notice, not merely to the Leader of the Opposition, but to every Member of the House. Every Member of this House is supposed to be equal, and if that is true I maintain that in this matter full notice should be given to every Member of the House, and that notice given to the Leader of the Opposition is not sufficient. Then we are told that we had a statement on Saturday from which we could have ascertained what change had been made. There are not twenty Members opposite who realised that this change was being made until this afternoon, and it is monstrous to say that we should realise the change which has been made in the presentation of the Estimates when an hon. Gentleman with twenty years experience of the Treasury's methods was unable to realise that any change had been made at all. If the Government intend to proceed with the interference with private Members in this manner it ought to cease to make new rules here and new rules there, it ought to issue a new rule that nobody has a right to say a word upon financial matters. That is the recommendation I make if the Government wishes to do this properly, and the Estimates would then go through the House in good time, like clockwork. Let them take my advice and without further delay bring at once into the Government and place upon the Treasury Bench the Member for Greenwich, when everything would go on smoothly.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): There is no doubt that we all appreciate the fact that the Government is in considerable difficulty, but what we cannot understand is why this difficulty should have become chronic this session. Everything seems to have been done that should be done, and yet we get into greater trouble. Something else seems to be wrong besides the House of Commons. Now that the hon. Member for King's Lynn has gone—has left the House—I may say one of the last things he said to me was that he hesitated whether he should go because he was afraid that if he did the Government would get into trouble. I am afraid that rather suggests that if he knew what is happening to-day it would disturb him to think that this revolutionary measure was sprung upon us in the way it has been. I study the Parliamentary Papers very carefully, but I had no idea that such a change was coming about. These Supplementary Estimates are of great importance, and surely the Government, which has so large a majority, might let the House have all reasonable time for discussion upon them. The noble Lord the Member for Greenwich, with great vigour, seemed to suggest that when he rules us we shall be managed with extreme rigour; but surely if we are to pass these Estimates at all we ought to consider each subject carefully. Nobody could possibly say that these Estimates are normal; nobody could suggest that a Supplementary Estimate of £1,000,000 was a matter that should pass without criticism. Now, Sir, in order to expedite matters we have another revolutionary change proposed to the House; and what is the result? That we have had another debate. It is now past seven o'clock, and we have done nothing. This is not the way in which the House of Commons should be ruled. We saw on Friday the result of such management, and it seems to me that this system of riding roughshod over us is a method to turn this House into a mere machine to record the decisions of the Government. It seems to me that we ought not to be asked to have a Vote of a million upon all sorts of subjects in bulk, because we know that when one subject has been discussed for a short time the whole may be closured. We had better face the matter at once and say this cannot be done in this way, and if it is to be done at all it cannot be done without the fullest consideration being given to it.

MR. VICARY GIBBS (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) said that the hon. Member who had just sat down had clearly shown that the House was face to face with a difficulty. He disliked quite as much as the hon. Member for North Islington anything like an attack being made upon the freedom of private Members; yet if the rule was not carried the Votes could not be got in time to conform with the law.

The hon. Member had said that the House must not be ridden over roughshod by anybody, but anyone who had listened to the discussion knew perfectly well there was no desire on the part of anybody to ride roughshod over them. Everybody was aware that had it been only an English Opposition a reasonable arrangement would have been made long since. This matter had been forced on by the hon. Member for East Clare. It was absolutely impossible for the Government to get through the business unless some measure of this kind was introduced. The suggestion that Parliament should have met earlier in the session was idle, because the same tactics would have answered equally well if the session had commenced on the 7th February. The pledge given by the First Lord of the Treasury only amounted to the fact that he would not be guilty of such an innovation again until he was compelled. He desired that more definite assurance should be given that such a thing should not recur until its non-recurrence would constitute a breach of the law. He believed in no other way could the business be carried through, and therefore he should vote for the Government.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.) said the whole difficulty had arisen owing to the monstrous mismanagement of public business on the part of the Government. When making the suggestion that had the House met on an earlier date the same action would have been adopted as had been adopted during the past fortnight, the hon. Member who had just sat down had quite overlooked the fact that the reason for the right hon. Gentleman's appeal was that, owing to the shortness of the time when Parliament met to get through the financial business of the country, he was compelled to adopt this proceeding. He thought, if the pressure was so great, that the House should meet at eleven or twelve o'clock instead of three. He regarded the innovation as dangerous in itself, but the manner in which it was introduced he considered more dangerous still. The House could not accept a private intimation conveyed to the Leader of the Opposition as being notice to the House generally. He challenged the Government to say there were six Members of the House who were aware that the Vote was to be taken in this way. He read his Parliamentary Papers with as much care as anybody, and he had had no idea that such sharp practice was going to be practised on an unwary House of Commons. He challenged the Government to say that there were six Members of the House who knew that the Government were going to bulk nineteen Votes altogether and take them in one Vote, and practically closure all discussion. The more honest course would have been to have followed the advice outlined with almost brutal frankness by the noble Lord the Member for Greenwich. The Government were responsible for the position in which they found themselves, and it did not lie in their mouths to complain of the time which the House had taken to discuss the Estimates. If the Treasury brought down these Votes in a proper manner and paid a fair amount of attention to the criticisms made upon them the Government would get the Votes in a much shorter time. Discussion of an ample and satisfactory character could not be considered obstructive. The Government had got themselves into this mess, and had attempted to get out of it by a stealthy stratagem which was not worthy of either the House or the Ministry. The shabby manner in which it was sought to sneak this new rule through the House without observation and without discussion was unworthy of even the present Government.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs): The Leader of the House is endeavouring to set up a very dangerous precedent which I do not think should be set up. He proposes to withdraw a number of Votes from discussion. That is what it amounts to. Here we have got nineteen Votes yet undiscussed, and what does the right hon. Gentleman propose? He says, "I propose that we should discuss the few Votes which may be considered important, and that the remaining Votes should not be discussed or divided on." Let the House understand clearly what this means. It is a new rule, not incorporated in the Standing Orders and canvassed by discussion before it passes, but brought in by the First Lord of the Treasury without affording any opportunity except such discussion as we are able to get without moving the adjournment of the House. The operation of the new rule is this. The right hon. Gentleman says, "If you discuss all these Votes I shall not get the Estimates," so he proposes that only a certain number of Votes shall be discussed and that the remainder shall then be voted upon. That is not merely an innovation, but it is what the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Wolverhampton calls a singularly dangerous one. The hon. Member opposite has made a singularly ungenerous attack upon the hon. Members for Ireland, for he has stated that if it had been left to the English Opposition all this matter would have been arranged. He apparently forgets that on Friday they were quite as amenable to an arrangement to facilitate the business as the Opposition, and to level that taunt at them now is exceedingly unfair and uncalled for. What is the defence of this new rule? Although the First Lord of the Treasury says it is called for by an emergency, he cannot prevent its becoming a precedent. I would call the attention of the House to the terms in which the right hon. Gentleman has given a pledge to the House. In answer to the hon. Member for East Somerset he said that he was prepared to give in the most unreserved manner a pledge that he would not use this power only under exceptional circumstances. But what good is a pledge like that? This is his opinion upon the present situation. A pledge is generally given with regard to something which ought to be done. Is the right hon. Gentleman prepared to say, "I pledge myself that this precedent shall not be followed." Why are the circumstances exceptional now? Simply because of circumstances for which the House of Commons has no responsibility, and for which no one has any responsibility but the Government itself. What are the exceptional circumstances? They are two, according to the Leader of the House. The first is that there is a large number of Votes which have not yet been discussed. But whose fault is it that there are so many Supplementary Estimates? Certainly it is not the fault of the House of Commons. The second circumstance is that the Government call Parliament together late, and who is responsible for that? The House of Commons was not consulted upon this matter, nor the Opposition. The convenience of the Opposition was not even consulted, for the Government simply consulted their own convenience in the matter. They knew perfectly well that all these Supplementary Votes had to be passed, and in spite of all this they call Parliament together late and insist now upon passing these Votes under all this pressure. And so it happens that for the lâches of the Government the rules of the House are to suffer. Opportunities of discussing Estimates and administration are to be limited not for this present session only, but practically for all time. What are these Supplementary Estimates? The right hon. Gentleman talks as if they were of no importance at all. If hon. Members will look at these Estimates they will find that they afford the first opportunity which has been given to the House of Commons for discussing three wars, quite apart from the South African War and affairs in China—namely, the war in Somaliland, the war in Uganda, and the military operations in Ashanti. Here are three wars discussed under Supplementary Estimates, and the right hon. Gentleman proposes that we should discuss all these matters in the course of a day or two. We have also got to discuss the Hospitals Commission, and this is the only opportunity we shall get to discuss the whole of the arrangements with regard to the hospitals, which affect the comfort and lives of thousands of our soldiers, because the war is not yet over, and there are tens of thousands of our troops still fighting under unhealthy conditions. It is only the House of Commons which can bring pressure to bear to make the War Office do what is right, and now we are not allowed to discuss it. Then, this Vote will afford practically the only opportunity we shall get to discuss the Transvaal Concessions Commission. We have to discuss the Report of that Commission, which I think has had an important influence in protracting the war, and we have also to consider the methods adopted by the Treasury for raising funds for the Transvaal and Chinese wars, the Queen's funeral, and other matters, and the right hon. Gentleman proposes that we shall do all this in one or two sittings. This is a perfectly unprecedented state of things. The Government is responsible for all these Estimates. The noble Lord the Member for Greenwich said that this rule might have been justifiable as applied to the Home Rule Bill of 1893, and the proposition he laid down is that it depends on the character of the legislation which is to follow. He says this rule is to be a precedent in certain cases only. It is to be a precedent when the Tory Government is in power, but no precedent when the Liberal Government is in office. We know what that means. We have all kinds of precedents set up by the Leader of the House, which I venture to say will be resisted more vigorously than the present Opposition resists them if a Liberal Government attempts to put them into operation. It depends entirely upon the view which hon. Members opposite take with regard to the particular proposals which are to be considered at the time. We really ought to consider these things on their merits. It is not a question of what you are examining or what particular expenditure you are passing, but it is a question of the rules of the House and the facilities offered for criticism. When these new rules are passed one after the other the House of Commons is depriving the Opposition of what is, after all, a legitimate weapon of criticism. Time is one of the weapons of the Opposition, and it is a perfectly fair one. I have seen discussions repeatedly where a good case did not attract any attention from the Minister concerned until he saw the discussion was consuming too much of the time of the Government. Then very often a second Minister would get up and examine the question, and say that there was something in the matter after all, and he would promise either inquiry or redress. Time is one of the oldest weapons of an Opposition, and one of the most effective weapons. So far as the Liberal Opposition is concerned, it is a particularly serious matter for a Liberal Opposition to support any rules of this kind, which do not give facilities for adequate discussion, and which deprive the Opposition of facilities which they have possessed from time immemorial. This is not a matter for arrangement across the floor of the House. It is a very vital question of constitutional liberty. We have had too many of these arrangements across the floor of the House. We had an arrangement of this kind on Friday, and what was the result? The Leader of the House, knowing, practically, at that time that he was going to make this arrangement, never informed the Opposition that he meant to do this. I do not charge the First Lord of the Treasury with bad faith in this matter, but I do say that there was a lack of straightforwardness about it. The right hon. Gentleman knew that if the Opposition and the hon. Members from Ireland and below the gangway had known when they made that arrangement last week that the First Lord of the Treasury intended to introduce this new rule, which is a complete subversion of every method of discussion we have had on Supplementary Estimates, the arrangement come to with regard to the Army would never have been agreed to. This is our reward. The right hon. Gentleman talks now about the ten unimportant Votes which took ten nights, and he refers to the debate on the price of coal. I should like to remind Members who were present during that debate—and I do not believe the First Lord of the Treasury was present, although he came in just in time to put the closure—that the prolongation of that debate was due to the failure of the Minister in charge to explain a discrepancy between the excessive amount called for in one Vote as compared with the amount in another Vote. Repeatedly explanations were asked for, and yet none was afforded. Why should the First Lord of the Treasury complain of these discussions? I remember that when the First Lord of the Treasury was the Leader of the Opposition upon one occasion almost a whole Parliamentary sitting was taken up in discussing an item of £100 spent upon pencils. One, if not two, of the gentlemen who occupied the time of the House upon that occasion are now sitting on the Treasury Bench opposite. The President of the Board of Agriculture was one of them. But at that time did the Member for Midlothian come down and say that there had been a scandalous waste of time in the House? He did not come down to this House and on his own initiative, without giving any notice, change the whole rules of the House. No; the right hon. Gentleman the late Member for Midlothian had too great a regard for the dignity and usefulness of the House. We are gradually being deprived of opportunities not of debate, but of legitimate criticism of the administration of the country. The result of this new rule will be that possibly two or three matters will be discussed, but I venture to say that many matters of considerable importance will receive no discussion at all. Twice, if not three times, in the course of a few weeks since the opening of the present session the right hon. Gentleman has already introduced innovations into the rules of this House which have considerably curtailed its liberty and freedom of discussion, and I think it is a great misfortune that the Liberal Opposition, who certainly ought to have the freedom and liberty of speech primarily under their charge instead of making an arrangement across the floor of this House, are not throwing the whole of their weight into the very serious development of the right hon. Gentleman's tactics.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided:—Ayes, 208; Noes, 121. (Division List No. 68.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bagot,Capt. JoscelineFitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Col. James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt.Hn.A.J. (Manch'r
Banbury, Frederick George
Beach,Rt.HnSirM.H.(Bristol)
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bowles,Capt.H.F.(Middlesex)
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Brown, Alex. H. (Shropshire)
Butcher, John George
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish,V.C.W(Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil,Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hon.J(Birm.
Chamberlain,J.Austen(Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A.Cameron (Glasgow
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross,Herb.Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies,SirHoratioD(Chatham
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke,Rt.HonSirWilliamHart
Faber, George Denison
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson,RtHnSirJ.(Manc'r)
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose-
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Foster, Sir M. (London Univ.
Garfit, William
Gibbs,Hn.A.G.H(CityofLond.
Gibbs,Hon.Vicary (St.Albans)
Gordon,Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Gordon,Maj.Evans-(TrH'mlts
Gorst, Rt. Hon. SirJohnEldon
Goschen, Hon. G. Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene,SirEW(B'rySEdm'nds
Greene,HenryD.(Shrewsbury)
Greene,W.Raymond-(Cambs.)
Gretton, John
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton,Rt.HnLordG(Mid'x
Hanbury, Rt.Hon. Robert W.
Harris,F.Leverton(Tynem'th)
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur H. (Hanley)
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Hoare, Edward B.(Hampstead
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope,J.F.(Sheffield,Brightside
Houldsworth, Sir Wm.Henry
Howard,CaptJ(Kent,Faversh.
Howard, J.(Midx.,Tottenh'm)
Jessel, Captain H. Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W.(Salop.
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Lambton, Hon. Frederick W.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lecky, Rt. Hon.Wm. E. H.
Lee,Capt.A.H.(Hants.,Fare'm
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Fred. N. S.
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Bristol, S.)
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis(Lowestoft
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney,RtHn.W.G.Ellis'n
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Iver,SirLewis(Edinbu'ghW
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriessh.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More,Robt. Jasper (Shropshire

Morgan, David J (Walth'mstow
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Mount, William Arthur
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Rt. Hon A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robt. Wellesley
Penn, John
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Pym C. Guy
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Ridley, Hon. M. W. (Stalybridg
Ridley, S Forde (BethnalGreen
Ritchie, RtHonChas. Thomson
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse
Seely, Chas. Hilton (Lincoln
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, E.)
Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E. (Taunt'n
Welby, Sir C. G. E. (Notts)
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John L.
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, Charles P (Glouc., Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Asquith, Rt. Hn Herbert Henry
Barlow, John Emmott
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bell, Richard
Blake, Edward
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brigg, John
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carew, James Laurence
Causton, Richard Knight
Clancy, John Joseph
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Doogan, P. C.
Duncan, James H.
Elibank, Master of
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbt. J.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir (MerthyrTydvil
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Holland, William Henry
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kinloch, Sir John Geo. Smyth
Lambert, George
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Leng, Sir John
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lowther, Rt. Hon. Jas. (Kent)
Lundon, W.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Cann, James
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mooney, John J.
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Nolan, Col. J. P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipp'rary M'd
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Price Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Rickett, J. Compton
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thompson, E. C. (Monaghan, N.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Noes—Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

Question put accordingly, "That this House do now adjourn."

The House divided :—Ayes, 119; Noes, 205. (Division List No. 69.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, Charles P. (Glouc., Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Barlow, John Emmott
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bell, Richard
Blake, Edward
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brigg, John
Brown, G. M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carew, James Laurence
Causton, Richard Knight
Clancy, John Joseph
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Duncan, James H.
Elibank, Master of
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Holland, William Henry
Jacoby, James Alfred
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kinloch, Sir John Geo. Smyth
Lambert, George
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Leng, Sir John
Lloyd-George, David
Lowther, Rt. Hn. James (Kent)
Lundon, W.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall
M'Cann, James
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport
Moss, Samuel
Nolan, Col. J. P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, J. (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries)
Rickett, J. Compton
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thompson, E. C. (Monaghan, N.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, F. W. (Norfolk, Mid.)
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Lough and Mr. Wm. Redmond.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Hy. Eden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Banbury, Frederick George
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H (Bristol)
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex
Brookfield, Col. Montagu
Brown, Alexander H. (Shropsh.
Butcher, John George
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. E. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalkieth, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred D.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. H.
Faber, George Denison
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson, Rt. Hn Sir J (Manc'r)
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Foster Sir M. (Lond. Univ.)
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans
Gordon, Hn. J E. (Elgin & Nairn)
Gordon, Maj Evans-(Tr Hamlts
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Sir E. W. (Bury St. Ed.
Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs)
Gretton, John
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (Mid'x

Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Rbt. Wm.
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashf'rd
Harris,F.Leverton (Tynem'th.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur H. (Hanley)
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Hoare, E. Brodie (Hampstead)
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope,J.F.(Sheffi'ld,Brightside
Houldsworth, Sir Wm.Henry
Howard, Capt. J.(Faversham)
Howard,J. (Midd.,Tottenham
Jessel,CaptainHerbertMerton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W.(Salop
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Lambton, Hon. Fredk. Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lecky,Rt.Hn.WilliamEdw.H.
Lee,Capt.A.H.(Hants,Fare'm
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower,FrederickN.S.
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Bristol,S)
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas,Col.Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney,RtHnW.G.Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Iver,SirLewis(EdinburghW
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriessh.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More,Robt.Jasper(Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris,Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morton,ArthurH.A.(Deptford
Mount, William Arthur
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray,RtHnA Graham(Bute
Murray, Charles J.(Coventry)
Murray,Col.Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Peel, Hn. Wm. Rbt. Wellesley
Penn, John
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Ridley,Hn.M.W.(Stalybridge
Ridley,SForde(Bethnal Green
Ritchie,RtHon.Chas.Thomson
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Rothschild, Hn. LionelWalter
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russel, T. W.
Sackville, Col. S.G. Stopford-
Samuel, Harry S.(Limehouse)
Seton Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart,M.H.(Renfrew)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith,Abel H.(Hertford,East)
Smith,JamesParker(Lanarks.)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson,Wm. Edw.Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, J. Cathcart (Orkney)
Welby,Lt-Col.A.C.E.(Tauntn
Welby, Sir C. G. E. (Notts.)
Wharton,Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whiteley,H.(Ashton-u.-Lyne)
Wilson, A. S. (York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Wm.H.(Yorks)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

SUPPLY—NAVY ESTIMATES.

Order for Committee read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair."—(*Mr. Arnold-Forster.*)

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): The House has for many years had the advantage of having the Navy Estimates introduced to it not only by the First Lord, but by a First Lord whose record of service is of peculiar and almost unique experience in the House; and as it happens that I am commissioned to perform the duties which Mr. Goschen so often performed with such great success in this House, perhaps it may be permitted to me to say a word with regard to the work done by Lord Goschen in connection with the Navy, because I believe his record of service is unique. He served for eight and a half years as First Lord of the Admiralty in the House of Commons, and during every one of those years he added to his accumulated wealth of experience in regard to naval matters. I believe I am correct in saying that no civilian Minister who has ever had the honour of administering the affairs of the Admiralty ever more completely gained the confidence of the Naval service than Lord Goschen. I believe he understood to a most remarkable degree the feeling of all those serving in the Fleet, and I believe no Minister was ever more jealous for the preservation of those privileges and regarded more carefully those feelings. Knowing as I do the great regard in which Mr. Goschen was held in this House, knowing the high esteem in which he was held in the Navy, I can only say that I humbly associate myself with that feeling of respect as a Member of this House, and, as one temporarily connected with the great service of the Navy, with the feeling of the Navy. But while I desire to have him before me as an example, I cannot help feeling that the fact that I, in a much less important position, have to undertake the task he performed with so much success places me in a somewhat difficult position; and I ask for, and think I shall obtain from the House, the indulgence which naturally is desired by one in so difficult a position. I think I shall merit that indulgence best if I do not attempt to embroider my theme by any matters that are not strictly relevant. My task will be made easier by the fact that my chief, the First Lord of the Admiralty, has already made a statement, very exhaustive and important, with regard to the plans of the Admiralty during the ensuing year. I do not think, however, it would be respectful to the House of Commons, which is asked to vote a sum of over £30,000,000, if I were to ask merely to be allowed to hold up that document and ask the House to receive it as read. I am not entitled to assume that every Member of this House has read that document; and, even if they had, I think they might justly demand from me an elucidation of some of the points referred to, and some enlargement of the propositions it contains. But I shall endeavour to avoid, as far as possible, going into any unnecessary detail, or wearying the House by reference to matters on which they can inform themselves from the First Lord's Memorandum.

Now, I imagine what the House really wants to know is, very briefly, whether value has been obtained for the very large sum which the House, with great unanimity, has voted for the service of the Navy in past years, whether value is now being obtained for such sums as are being expended, and whether there is a reasonable probability that, if they grant the very large Supply which is asked for in the Estimates this year, that sum will be expended in strengthening the Navy and in additions to the Navy. I believe that I shall be able to give that assurance, and to supply facts which will convince hon. Members on both sides of the House that they are justified in acceding to what I admit is the very large sum which the Navy demands. My business is financial, but there is an old saying that an ounce of fact is worth a ton of theory, and though we may test the value of the Navy by the amount of the sums which we appropriate to its service, and may value the service it renders on the basis of the report which may be made by its representative in this House, we can value those services far better when we can put them to the test of actual fact. We must not shut our eyes to the fact that the Navy is maintained really for one purpose alone—that is, for carrying on successful war when war happens to be unhappily necessary for this country. [AN HON. MEMBER: To prevent war.] My hon. friend very truly says that the object of the Navy is to prevent war, but it can only prevent war by being an efficient instrument for the conduct of war when war takes place.

We have had during the last twelve months some evidence that tends to show that the Navy is adequate for the purpose for which we maintain it and to which we devote such large sums. We have had the operations in China, in connection with the relief of the Legations in Peking, and I think it is permissible for me to say one word with regard to those operations. I am happy to say—and I hope the House will understand that on this matter, and every other naval matter on which I speak, I am here as the mouthpiece of the Lords of the Admiralty, who instruct me, and by whom I am bound to be instructed, with regard to the technical matters of the Navy. They tell me, and I gladly accept what I think we all know to be the fact, that the conduct of the naval contingent in China has been admirable and excellent, that the gallantry of the naval contingent which followed Admiral Seymour and attempted to relieve Peking was all that we could desire from British sailors, and that the subsequent conduct of the naval detachment which was under the orders of General Gaselee was equally creditable to the Navy. I do not think it is in my province to make any selection where all have done so well; but I am permitted to make special reference to the gallant behaviour of a party of some forty-eight of the Royal Marines who attacked and took, against great odds, the military college in the neighbourhood of Peking on the occasion of Admiral Seymour's advance. The testimony of a post-captain in the Royal Navy, which every man serving in the Navy will appreciate, was that these gallant Marines, when they attacked this fortification, climbed the walls as coolly as if they were bird-nesting. I must not leave the subject of active operations in China without one word of tribute to the effective service which was rendered by the Australian contingent. For the first time, I believe, since the war of 1812, we have had a colonial naval contingent taking an active and effective part in the naval work of this Empire. We have had three Australian contingents. We have had the contribution of His Majesty's ship "Protector," and two other Australian contingents from New South Wales and Victoria, both taking part in the advance on Peking; and we have but one testimony, both from the naval and military officers concerned, as to the effective service rendered by these men and the excellent behaviour of the men. I confess I permit myself to hope that this remarkable precedent, which has been set almost on the day of the birth of the great Commonwealth of Australia, may at some no distant day be imitated with advantage to the Empire by the equally great Dominion of Canada.

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* For "Statement of the First Lord of the Admiralty explanatory of the Navy Estimates, 1901-1902," see Appendix to this Volume.

Passing from this very brief illustration of the power of the Navy to render those services which we rely on it to render in case of emergency, I come to what is strictly my business, the exposition of the financial aspect of the naval expenditure during the coming year. The sum which the House of Commons is asked to vote is unprecedented; it is larger, I believe, than any sum which it has ever been asked to vote to the service of the Fleet; but I think I shall be able to give good reasons why Parliament should assent to that expenditure. The total expenditure which the House is asked to vote is £30,875,676, as compared with £27,522,600 in the past year. But, in order to make that statement of figures absolutely fair, it is necessary to add on to the expenditure of last year the additional Estimate which was asked for by the First Lord, at a late period of the session, for certain specific purposes, a sum which does not come into the category of a Supplementary Estimate, and which was added to the original Estimate before it was finally sanctioned by the House. That additional Estimate of last year amounted to £1,169,300, giving a total for last year of £28,691,900, as compared with this year's Estimate of £30,875,676, or a net increase for the coming financial year of £2,183,776. I have not added on to those figures the Supplementary Estimate which has been asked for, and agreed to by the House of Commons during the present year. The items of the Supplementary Estimate have been explained very fully to the House by my hon. friend the Civil Lord; and he has shown that they were without exception due to unforeseen circumstances which could not have been contemplated at the time when the original Estimates, or when the additional Estimates, were presented to the House. I should not like to take upon myself to say that there is no possibility that unforeseen circumstances will not arise during the year to entail an equivalent Estimate. I think hon. Members will agree that it is fair to compare the original and additional Estimate of last year with the Estimate I am now submitting to the House, and from those figures we get this increase of £2.183.776.

The House will want some explanation of this very large increase in the Estimate. The House will want to know, when they are consenting to vote over £2,000,000 increase, whether all this money is being expended for the one purpose in which it is interested, namely, the effective strengthening of the Navy. I believe that I can give that assurance to the House. A portion of the increase, of course, cannot be classed under the head of an effecting increase for the strengthening of the Navy, as there was an increase in prices. There was a large increase in the price of coal last year, which was met by a Supplementary Estimate. There was a certain increase in the price of stores and clothing which also went to the Supplementary Estimate; but I am happy to say that, unless our anticipations prove incorrect, these items will be substantially diminished during the forthcoming year. Additional expenditure without additional advantage to the Navy will be diminished in the year to come. There may be, no doubt, a certain amount of increase owing to the continuance of the war in South Africa, and there may be items owing to the disturbed state of things in China which we are not able to foresee; but whatever is spent on these heads I cannot pretend is an effective addition to the resources of the Navy. Setting aside all these matters, there is a large remaining addition which I believe will be expended in making the Navy stronger next year than it was last year.

There is an addition to the vote for *personnel*, the men, and officers of the Navy, of £233,000. There is an addition to the other two important Votes which appear in the Estimates—Votes 8 and 9—which are concerned with the construction of ships and with the guns of the Navy—which amounts to £1,274,000 and £161,000 respectively, or, roughly speaking, a total of £1,436,000. I contend that an addition of £233,000 for *personnel* is a pure addition to the strength of the Navy. There is, in addition to this, another sum with reference to which I do not propose to trouble the House. That is the addition which will, I hope, be made under the head of the Works Loan Bill of the Navy. That is a matter which my hon. friend the Civil Lord will deal with at a later stage; but I think he will be able to assure the House that, whatever the amount of the addition which he may have to disclose, all of it will be spent on increasing what I may call the plant of the Navy. Now, I should like to speak first with regard to the *personnel* of the Navy. The increase proposed for *personnel* in the Estimate includes an increase of 287 officers, 1,150 seamen, 1,000 Marines, 500 stokers, 100 electricians, and one or two other small additions. There have been also other additions to the Reserves. But what I desire to speak of at a little more length, and what the House will desire to know before I go into the small amount of detail into which I propose to go, is the net result upon the total available resources of men available for manning the Fleet in case of war, because here we come in contact with the root fact of the situation—the position of the Navy in the event of war. We shall have, we hope, 118,625 men upon the active list of the Navy. We shall have 28,650 men in the Royal Naval Reserve, and we shall have, if our anticipations are fulfilled, during the financial year, 7,300 men of the Royal Fleet Reserve, or a total of 154,575 men available for manning the Fleet.

MR. KEARLEY (Devonport): Exclusive of the Seamen's Pensioners Reserve?

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The number of seamen pensioners at present is 10,000 men. We offer to all those men who are eligible the opportunity of entering the Royal Fleet Reserve and an opportunity of entering the Royal Naval Reserve. We have reason to believe that, excluding those who on account of age are not eligible, there will be an entry of something like 5,000 out of those 10,000 men into the Royal Fleet Reserve. The remaining 5,000 men will remain as they are now, classed as seamen pensioners; and I hope they will be able in an emergency to render valuable service. But I have not taken this residue into account in computing what I consider to be the effective number of men for the service of the Fleet in time of war. The hon. Member will understand that I have not counted anybody twice. On the other hand, I have omitted to count the 5,000 seamen pensioners. I am glad that the First Lord and the Board of Admiralty have decided to make this attempt to raise the Royal Fleet Reserve. I entertain a personal opinion, which I believe is shared by others, that it is a heavy tax on this or on any other country to maintain 112,000 men on the active list for service in the Fleet. It is difficult to train them and to employ them in time of peace; but, on the other hand, every naval officer knows, and everyone interested in the service knows, that the value of trained men in time of war cannot be exaggerated.

We are confronted by two alternatives: whether we shall go on adding indefinitely to this great burden—and it is a great burden—or whether we shall seek to obtain from some other source an addition to that force eligible for service in time of war which shall have the same qualities as the trained men we have under the present system. I believe it will be found that in the Royal Fleet Reserve which it is now proposed to establish we shall have at any rate a partial solution of that somewhat difficult problem.

There are many hon. Members who are interested in another branch of the Reserve, and that is the Royal Naval Reserve, which now stands at 28,650 men. In the First Lord's statement it is recited that there has been a difficulty in recruiting for the Royal Naval Reserve up to the full strength which we desire it to attain, and that the proposals which were made not long ago in the House for improving the efficiency of the Royal Naval Reserve have not proved as satisfactory in their working as we desired. It has been found that the conditions which were imposed on the Royal Naval Reserve were too onerous, or, put in another way, they were not sufficiently attractive to bring men into the Naval Reserve to the extent we desired. The Admiralty has reckoned with that fact, and they have immediately taken steps to remedy the state of things they deplore. The terms offered to the seamen of the Royal Naval Reserve have been modified. Under the old *regime* they were conditions which did not prove satisfactory to the men. The pay of 1s. 3d. a day was, I think, considered insufficient in itself for men who were asked to vacate their ordinary vocations for a period of six months. The six months training at sea was regarded as too long by the men, and I am informed that the withdrawal of the gratuity of 10s. a month paid to the men of the Royal Naval Reserve under the old system operated adversely to the force. The fifteen months compulsory service at sea was not regarded with favour—the fifteen months, I mean, which entitled them to qualify for the full pension under the old system. All these facts have been carefully considered by the Admiral Superintendent and the Board of Admiralty. Steps have been taken which I think the Admiralty are right in believing will remedy the difficulty. The sea service of the Royal Naval Reserve has been reduced from six months to three months, and the total sea service from fifteen months to nine months. The gratuity of the men serving is at the rate of 20s. per month for each of the three months served, with a further gratuity of 40s. at the end of the period, or a total sum of £5. I expect that my hon. and gallant friends who criticise the proposal will say that the reduction of the period of training at sea from six to three months is inadvisable, but we ask them to reconsider that opinion, because in the opinion of the most competent officers of the Fleet that will not be so. Under the old system many men were called upon to serve in ordinary seagoing ships of the Navy, and the complaint was made, whether justified or not I do not say, that the duties which the men were called upon to perform were neither interesting nor dignified in their character, and were not such as to encourage men to undergo them voluntarily. It is now proposed to put the whole of the Royal Naval Reserve men who come up for their period of three months training under the direct control of the Admiral Superintendent of the Naval Reserve, who will embark them in coastguard ships, giving them during the three months training the full course of which that period allows, and who will demand from them—that which I believe they will be perfectly willing to give—the performance of the ordinary routine of bluejackets' life, and that efficiency which they are required to furnish for the service of the country. By this means we believe the efficiency of the Royal Naval Reserve will be restored and its numbers raised.

With regard to the Royal Fleet Reserve, I think in one respect it is an absolutely new departure. The Royal Fleet Reserve is to be composed entirely of trained men. At the commencement we are to draw it from two sources. There is the Seamen Pensioners Reserve, which is composed of men who have served their apprenticeship in the Navy and who are now in receipt of pensions, and are under the liability to serve in case of war. We offer to such of these men as are eligible the opportunity of entering the Fleet Reserve. If they do so, they will undoubtedly receive advantages which they have not received while members of the Reserve in receipt of pensions. Their period of drill will be reduced from two weeks to one week; they will have a gratuitous issue of clothing, or in lieu of that a sum of 10s., and they will have the higher rate of continuous service pay as opposed to non-continuous service pay. But we do not depend on the seamen pensioners for manning the Fleet Reserve; we rely on taking a certain number of that Reserve, and for the future we shall ask all seamen pensioners to enter the Fleet Reserve. We shall make it compulsory upon them to enter the Fleet Reserve. We throw open this opportunity to all seamen who have served twelve years, and to those who have served for a lesser period and who have left the Navy with a good character and have received a recommendation from the commander-in-chief of the station. We reckon that during the present year we shall bring up the total of these two classes to 7,000, and that eventually we shall raise the number of class "B," that is to say the number exclusive of seamen pensioners, to 15,000. I want the House to understand that all these men will be exceedingly valuable to the Navy, for all will have gone through a full probation of a long period on ships at sea during their lives. I venture to make this remark. Suppose this country is in difficulties and dangers and in the competition of preparation for eventualities I think we cannot overrate the advantage which is given us by the possession of a great amount of trained material.

*MR. WILLIAM ALLAN (Gateshead): And what about the engineers and stokers in the service?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I know the hon. Member's interest in that subject, but he must allow me to deal with it later on. I am now dealing with the Fleet Reserve. I think any seaman and any man acquainted with naval matters will admit that the difference between a trained and untrained crew is enormous, and it will be invaluable to the Navy if we can add 15,000 trained men as we propose.

While I am dealing with the *personnel*, let me mention certain other arrangements. Questions have been asked on various occasions in regard to warrant officers, and I mention these in passing, for I know questions will be asked as to whether anything has been done in redemption of pledges frequently given. To such I have to say that the subject has received the very careful consideration of the Admiralty and that a Committee has been appointed, which Committee will, I hope, shortly report on the whole question of the Naval Ordnance Store Department, and I hope as the result of the labours of that Committee that opportunity will be presented to us for giving further employment to warrant officers, whose claims have so often been advocated in the House of Commons. There is another matter mentioned in the First Lord's statement—and I only mention this in passing as emblematic of the progress made on the scientific side of organisation in the Fleet—is that of the rating of electricians. This is a new rating, on which I hope we shall maintain 100 in the present year and 100 subsequently. The enormous development in the electrical department of a ship has necessitated this outside rating. These men will pass through examination into the Navy and will form, I hope, a valuable contribution to the staff of torpedo lieutenants in ships.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY (Yorkshire, Shipley) asked if they would be rated as engineers or as executive officers.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: They will be rated as petty officers and chief petty officers, assistants to torpedo lieutenants, in connection with the large amount of electrical gear they have to superintend on ships. I thought the hon. Member was going to ask me about engineers. I am aware that the whole question of the position of engineers in the Navy has attracted the serious attention of Members of the House, and none more than of the hon. Member for Shipley, and perhaps those hon. Members will not take it amiss of me if I ask leave not to go into this matter at length to-night. The hon. Member and others know what has been done for engineers in the present year, and I am aware that what has been done has not given entire satisfaction to engineers in the Navy and those who claim to be their representatives. But the subject is much too wide and much too important for me to attempt to deal with it on an occasion like this. It will be raised at a later stage of the Navy Estimates, and I feel that I should be wasting time if I endeavoured to deal with it at the present time in the manner hon. Members interested would wish me to deal with it. I will only say this. The question of dealing with the position of engineers in the Navy is a very difficult one. I have done my best to make myself personally acquainted with it. The difficulties we have felt, however, are not peculiar to our own Navy; they have been experienced in all the European navies and in the United States; and if we are cautious in dealing with the matter, and if I hesitate to pronounce an opinion on it, I hope that hon. Members will not charge me with being recalcitrant. The difficulty which we feel has been, and is, felt by others.

There remains one matter of great interest to the House in connection with the *personnel*, and a statement has been made in the House, which, if carried into effect, would largely touch the question of the *personnel* of the Navy, and that is the question of furnishing protection for coaling stations. This matter has been mentioned by my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War, and my right hon. friend has stated that in his personal view it is desirable that the Navy should undertake to find the men for garrisoning certain coaling stations. I think he made it clear to the House, and, if he did not, I desire to do so, that the view expressed by the Secretary of State was, to a certain extent, a personal view. The view expressed by a Secretary of State for War is, of course, of very great weight, but it is also fair to state, as he said, that this matter has yet to receive the careful consideration of the Admiralty authorities. The Board of Admiralty is most anxious in this, as in all other matters, to co-operate with every other department for the service of our country, but they feel entitled and, indeed, bound to consider whether they can effectively contribute to the service of the country in this particular manner. I know I am correct in stating that the Lords of the Admiralty have not up to the present moment been able to examine with the minuteness so important a project deserves the whole of the bearings of this very grave proposition. It will be the duty of the Admiralty to review the subject in all its bearings, and I hope the House will accept my promise that when it is so reviewed they will be informed of the result: but I ask them not to anticipate the view of the Admiralty at the present stage.

I pass from the question of *personnel* with a few remarks upon a subject in which my hon. friend the Member for Yarmouth and others take great interest—the training of officers. The Admiralty have laid on the Table a Report with regard to the training of executive officers, which, no doubt, will be discussed at the proper time. I believe it to be a *bonâ fide* contribution towards the solution of a very difficult question, and I believe it will greatly relieve the situation. I do not pretend that it goes over the whole subject; it does not touch the age of the entrance of cadets to the "Britannia," or the education to be given to lieutenants in the second course at Greenwich. It does not throw any light on a matter which has received the earnest consideration of the Admiralty, the matter of the prescribed course of the torpedo and gunnery lieutenants at Greenwich. It has been suggested that the time there is too great, that some of the subjects are too complex and too little connected with the service of the Navy at sea, and that the whole curriculum might be amended with advantage. I shall have something to say when that question is raised, but I wish the House to understand that the Report does not represent the whole of the consideration which has been given to it by the Admiralty, and when the question is raised I shall be prepared to state the views of the Admiralty in regard to every aspect of the matter.

Passing now from the question of *personnel* to that of *matériel*, I must mention Vote 9, the vote for guns and projectiles, on which an increase of £161,000 is asked for. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Forest of Dean has sometimes criticised, with the great knowledge he possesses, the quality of our guns, and other hon. Members have criticised with absolute justice the delays in the delivery of our guns. I am glad to say those difficulties have passed away. We have caught up in the matter of guns, and delivery is now taking place with absolute regularity, and the quality of the guns is, I believe, all that could be desired. The new 7·5 gun referred to in the First Lord's statement is equal, if not superior, in ballistic power and general efficiency to similar guns of any foreign Power. Last year we asked for an additional sum for armour-piercing projectiles. I believe I can tell the House that that money is well spent, that these armour-piercing projectiles are absolutely essential to the efficiency of the Fleet, and that we are now in a fair way, for the first time, of supplying the Fleet with a full and adequate supply of these projectiles, without which no Admiralty would like, under present circumstances, to send the Fleet into action. The question of a new powder—a very important question—is under the consideration of the Explosives Committee, and we hope that a decision will be arrived at at a very early date. We hope and believe that that decision will enable us to furnish for our magazines a powder which, while it will be equal, if not superior, to the cordite now in use, will be less destructive than that powder now is of the tubes of the guns in which it is used. Perhaps I may mention at this stage that the system of gunnery training has been very largely improved, and that we are making arrangements by which the amount of ammunition at the disposal of officers commanding all ships, and gunnery training ships especially, will be largely increased. We are directing our efforts towards forming a school of gunnery at sea, while doing nothing to detract from the high state of efficiency of the gunnery training ships "Whale Island" and "Excellent," and the "Cambridge" at home; and we have introduced a system of encouragement and rewards, guided by selection, for those men who are competent to aim a gun—a very rare and very precious accomplishment—and we believe it will be of inestimable value to the Fleet in time of war.

We have asked the House to sanction considerable expenditure for anchors and moorings in connection with the new harbours for which you are asked to vote money, and for part of which you have already voted money. We are taking steps to do what is a most important thing—that is, to render the coaling arrangements for the Fleet, not only at home stations but throughout the world, adequate to the growing needs of our Navy. I come now to a matter which is also of great interest. I refer to the question of construction. But before I enter upon this subject I should like to make an announcement which, I think, will be of interest to some hon. Members of this House. We have year by year heard attacks made, which I am not prepared to say were wholly unjustifiable, on the arming of ships with muzzle-loading guns—a class of gun which, hon. Members know, has long ceased to rank, to put it mildly, in the first place among the navies of the world. There is a Return associated with the name of my right hon. friend the Member for the Forest of Dean of ships of this and of foreign countries, and I think it will be some consolation not only to him, but to others, to know that from that Return there have been struck off the list of so-called effective ships of the Navy, no less than sixteen vessels—the "Triumph," the "Invincible," the "Audacious," the "Northumberland," the "Agincourt," the "Achilles," the "Minotaur," the "Black Prince," the "Warrior," the "Belleisle," the "Hydra," the "Neptune," the "Swiftsure," the "Iron Duke," the "Nelson," and the "Northampton." Some ships partly armed with muzzle-loading guns remain on the list, and must remain until we have effective additions to the Navy List. I may mention the case of the "Alexandra," which carries twelve 6-inch breech-loading guns, as well as twelve very heavy muzzle-loading guns, and it will be realised that there are conditions in which this ship might be utilised and might be a formidable addition to any squadron to which she was attached.

I now come to the question of construction. We are asking for a Vote of a sum of over nine millions sterling, the largest sum that has ever yet been asked for construction in the Royal Navy. [AN HON. MEMBER: New construction?] I am speaking of ships which are under construction and ships which are proposed to be commenced. Both come technically under the head of new construction. We have now built or commenced since a period which is well within the recollection of hon. Members—that is to say, the completion of the class of ship of which the "Majestic" was a type—we have completed or commenced, or asked authority to commence, twenty-three battleships. Of these five—the "Canopus," the "Glory," the "Albion," the "Goliath," and the "Ocean"—are now completed. Others are in various stages of completion, and we are asking authority to commence three more battleships, for which the design is not yet settled. As to cruisers, since the completion of the "Diadem" class we have asked authority to commence thirty. Of these a large majority are of the armoured cruiser class—a vessel which is very greatly required in the Royal Navy at the present time. One of these, the "Cressy," is already completed, and a large number of them are in an advanced stage of building, and, we hope, will be available for service to the Navy at an early date. But when I speak of construction, I picture to myself what is the reflection which is in the mind of almost every hon. Member who hears me. They will say—"What about delay in the construction?" I want to say a word which, I think, will make it easier to discuss this question at a later stage. These delays are, of course, owing to very various causes. I believe I am justified in stating that the causes which have been responsible for these delays have diminished, are diminishing, and will pass away altogether. Of course, one of the greatest causes of delay was the delay in the supply of armour. I have taken great pains to inform myself as to who was responsible for the delay in the supply of the armour. I believe that the answer to that problem is this—that the great change in the form of the armour used is the real reason for the delay in completion. The whole method of making armour was revolutionised when first Harveyised plates, and, secondly, the Krupp system, was introduced into the Navy. In order to produce that kind of armour the whole plant of the armour-makers had practically to be reconstructed, and that work took time. It has been said that if the Admiralty had been awake, if they had given a pledge to the makers of armour that they would take so much armour from them in any particular year, they would have had the armour at an earlier date. I do not think that is the fact. It is not in the power of the Admiralty without legislation by this House to give any pledge of the kind. But an equivalent pledge was given when a large programme of armed battleships and armed cruisers was announced, and it had the effect that the Admiralty thought it would have. These great armour-plate manufacturers accepted that pledge, and have expended enormous sums of money. I know of two firms each of which has expended a million sterling in adding to their plant for the construction of armour, and now, for the first time, we get the result in an enormously increased output. I have been down to see this armour as it has been delivered, and the House may take it from me that we are going to get a delivery of armour during the next year such as has never been paralleled during the last six or seven years.

In regard to the question of machinery, there has been undoubtedly a great deal of delay which has hampered the completion of the ships. With knowledge which I did not before possess, I repeat what has been said by those who have spoken before me, that a large part of that delay is still due to the engineers' strike. That may appear to be a far-fetched cause, but I come face to face with this fact. The whole of the ships of the "Diadem" class were ordered prior to that strike, and they were completed prior to the contract time. Then supervened the engineers' strike, and from that time not one single ship has been completed within the contract time. I think I am justified in connecting these two circumstances—and the evidence I receive enables me to connect them as a logical consequence—and to say that delay has resulted from the engineers' strike, which affected not only the output but the whole of the machinery supplied by the contractors for the production of the articles which we required. I do not intend to dilate upon this question. What I want to say now is that we are all agreed that this question of arrears is deplorable. There have been arrears; there are arrears. We have not built ships as quickly as we have wanted them built. But the amount of the delay is perhaps exaggerated. The arrears have not been anything approaching what we have been led to suppose by the criticisms in the press. I have particulars of the rate of building in all the great countries of Europe, and in the United States, and I find that we still hold our pre-eminence in the matter of rapidity in the building of our ships, though we have not gone back to that happy state when we built the "Royal Sovereign." The "Canopus," the "Goliath," and the "Ocean" have been built and completed in two years and eleven months, three years, and three years respectively, while Russian ships have taken eight years, or six years and three months. In France the "St. Louis" has taken five years and five months, and the "Gaulois" three years and nine months. The only Power that has approached us has been Germany. [AN HON. MEMBER: Japan.] That is another matter. They were ships built in this country. What I want to point out is this, that if there has been delay in construction it has not been quite as serious as some hon. Members would have us suppose. But I admit frankly that there have been arrears; they are deplorable and ought to cease. I believe the Admiralty have taken steps in regard to this matter which will commend themselves to the House. The First Lord has appointed a Committee, of which I happen to be a member. Another member of that Committee is the Controller of the Navy, an officer who has a long and ample experience of everything that appertains to the ship construction of the Navy. But we have added to that Committee two gentlemen whose names are very familiar to this House—the hon. Member for Maidstone and Sir Thomas Sutherland. By selecting two shipowners accustomed to order their own ships, and to get them, we have made the best selection we could. I am anxious that the real facts of the case should be ascertained, and that we should get at the bottom of the question of whether everything has been done which might have been done by the Admiralty with regard to the building of ships. I am bound to say, on behalf of the Department I am associated with, that I do not believe we shall find, and, as far as our researches have gone, we have not found, that there have been much more than natural causes at work, and that, although the procedure of the Admiralty has occasionally gone hardly with certain firms, whose whole effort has not been devoted to building for the Admiralty, in the majority of cases the arrangements of the Admiralty have been found reasonable and workable, and the difficulties which have supervened have been difficulties due to circumstances outside the control of the Admiralty or the contractors. If that be not so, we are in the way to find out the facts. We have invited the representatives of all the great firms to come and state their own cases and give their evidence frankly and openly.

Having got over, as far as we can, the question of arrears, we are venturing upon a new programme. We propose to commence during the coming year three battleships, six first-class armoured cruisers, two third-class armoured cruisers, ten destroyers, five torpedo-boats, two sloops, and five submarine vessels. I will not say much about submarine vessels, but I will say that I am glad that the Admiralty, under the advice of Lord Goschen, took the view that it was wise not to be found unprepared in regard to this matter. We have a great amount of information about these boats, but we do not attach an exaggerated value to it. But we believe that an ounce of practice is worth a ton of theory, and that when we get officers and men to see these boats they will learn more from them than from many reports which come from foreign countries. One thing stands between the submarine boat and efficiency, and that is the motor by which it is propelled. But there is no disguising the fact that if you can add speed to the other qualities of the submarine boat, it might, in certain circumstances, become a very formidable vessel. We are comforted by the judgment of the United

States and Germany, which is hostile to these inventions, which I confess I desire shall never prosper. But we cannot regard our position as the same as that of other nations. The United States to-morrow, if a perfect submarine were invented, would only have more secure protection for their harbours. In Germany the harbours are no doubt carefully protected now. But we live in the narrow waters of the Channel, and our problem is not precisely that of any other nation, and I am glad that Lord Goschen did give this instruction to the Board which has now borne fruit in this determination to put this experiment into execution and we shall see the result of it during the next financial year.

Now I come to the last point—that of boilers, which has very justly and rightly been agitating the minds of many outside as well as inside the House. The facts have already been revealed in the Memorandum presented to this House in the Report of the Boilers Committee. I believe the House has but one view on the boiler question—that is, that the only solution which will be satisfactory is that which will give an absolutely secure boiler to His Majesty's Fleet, and they will not be content with anything less. I think we must consider for a moment what the situation is. There have been many complaints, in this House and outside, against the Belleville boiler. I saw the very first Belleville boiler which was placed in a French ship of war, and I have followed the question with no less interest than the hon. Member opposite ever since they have been introduced into the British Navy. I do not desire to blame those responsible for the introduction of these boilers into our Navy. I believe it would be disastrous to penalise any officer for venturing to accept responsibility. In justification of those responsible I will say that a Committee, of which the competence is acknowledged, has endorsed their conclusion that the water-tube boiler should be introduced in ships of war. And this is not only the conclusion of this Committee, but of every advisory board of every Admiralty in Europe, Asia, and America. Therefore, I am not going to take upon myself to lay any blame upon those who introduced the water-tube boiler. Many hon. Members were of opinion that the trials which had taken place were not adequate or satisfactory. We are all acquainted with the history of the question, and of the expression of opinion inside and outside this House. We know that, to the great satisfaction of Parliament, Mr. Goschen consented to appoint a Committee to inquire into the whole question. This Committee has issued an *ad interim* Report, which unequivocally condemns the Belleville boiler and says it was not the best. This places the Admiralty in a very peculiar position, for, while the Committee has condemned the Belleville boiler, it has added two recommendations which are entitled to equal weight. It is said that water-tube boilers are essential, that there are boilers other than the Belleville which might with advantage be used, but the Committee has not reported in favour of any of them. Indeed, up to the present moment the Committee has not had an opportunity of conducting experiments which would enable it to pronounce an opinion with regard to any one of these boilers. It is absolutely imperative that the Navy should be augmented and that the ships should not be delayed. The First Lord has done what was obviously a wise thing to do. He has stopped the construction of new ships for which boilers have not been constructed, and he has ordered an inquiry as to whether any other ships can be arrested with regard to their boilers the future type of which is not yet settled. Experiments are to be made with regard to the boiler which should be used in lieu of the Belleville boiler, and those experiments will be pressed forward with the greatest possible rapidity. But in the opinion of the Admiralty it would be wrong to allow any delay in the completion of these ships to occur if such delay merely depended on a long series of experiments. There are two types of boilers which have already received the imprimatur of the German and the United States Admiralties respectively, and one of which has received, in addition, the favourable opinion of our own Admiralty; I refer to the Babcock and Wilcox boiler. This boiler has been adopted in the United States Navy, and it has the advantage of having been successfully tried in a large number of ships of the mercantile marine. So we are not without data to go upon in introducing these boilers into the ships of the Navy. I have been to sea with these boilers. I have my own view of their merits. But it would be unfortunate if the House of Commons were to receive the impression from me that these boilers are what the hon. Member for Gateshead described them to be. The Report of the Committee is to this effect—that this is not the best type of boiler for His Majesty's ships; but they do not report that "it is murder to send men into the stokehold," or that the boilers "are so much scrap-iron"; and when I heard it stated that one of His Majesty's ships was drifting round a buoy in the East Indies, and I see reports from the commanding officer and the engineers of this very ship stating that there is absolutely nothing to complain of in the working of her boilers, that she has made under ordinary conditions and with bad coal a speed of 19·5 knots, and that she is just leaving for the Persian Gulf, the exaggeration does appear to me so gross that it is necessary to guard against the danger that might arise if we were to accept the whole of the views of the hon. Member for Gateshead. There are scores of ships of all kinds—battleships, cruisers, and mercantile ships—running every day and all day with these boilers—scores of ships running in European waters.

MR. WILLIAM ALLAN: Merchant ships?

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Yes, merchant ships. Great Japanese battleships have been out to the East, and battleships of our own have only within the last few days made runs with these boilers, which have given the greatest satisfaction. I have always held, and do believe, with regard to these boilers, that they have defects which are not equally common to all other boilers, and we must be very careful that we do not get another boiler which has the same defects and disadvantages. The House must not, however, believe that all the difficulties which are attributed to the manipulation of the Belleville boiler are peculiar to that boiler, for some of them are common to other boilers. I have said this in order to justify the position of the Admiralty. The position is this. They accept frankly and freely the Report of the Committee, and they intend to make the change the Committee has recommended. Moreover, they intend to make it retrospective, as far as it possibly can be without delaying the completion of His Majesty's ships. If it is found that there is some other boiler so manifestly superior to the Belleville boiler, it is still open to the Admiralty to put it into other ships in the course of time; but they will not be frightened into any weakening of His Majesty's Fleet in order to meet what they believe to be an exaggerated and fanciful view of the situation.

I know that many of the matters I have referred to cursorily will come up at another stage, and I shall endeavour then to meet any criticisms that may be passed; but this I do believe, that perhaps not those who have heard me, but those who have read the statement of the First Lord will agree that though there may be matters open to criticism and additions which commend themselves to hon. Members, these Navy Estimates for the year 1901 are a reasonable and adequate compliance with the wish of the nation that the Navy should be maintained at that high standard of efficiency which is inseparable from the safety of the State. There is this great satisfaction about discussing anything with regard to the Royal Navy, that, whoever may be the exponent of the views of the Admiralty, though he has opponents to meet, and though, no doubt, some of those who differ from him are far superior to him in knowledge of technical matters—

MR. WILLIAM ALLAN: Hear, hear.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Yes, Sir, I will gladly make an exception of the hon. Member for Gateshead, with regard to the matter I have just been dealing with—but I do not except him from my next remark, which is this, that all those engaged in the discussion of matters connected with the Navy are as sincerely anxious as the Admiralty itself to make the Navy more efficient——

Mr. WILLIAM ALLAN: As I am.

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: That is why I did not except you from this portion of my statement. We are all anxious to make the Navy more efficient, and to keep it up to the standard we all desire, and though we may differ we are all anxious for the same result.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: In obedience to what I understand is the general wish of the House, to which I gladly accede, I now ask leave to withdraw the motion before the House.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Resolved, That this House will immediately resolve itself into the Committee of Supply.—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Considered in Committee:—

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. Lowther (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS REVISED SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1900–1901.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary Sum, not exceeding £893,316, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the following Civil Services and Revenue Departments, viz.:—

CIVIL SERVICES.

		£
	Class V.	
Vote 3.	Colonial Services	212,300
Vote 2.	British Protectorates in Uganda, etc., ...	200,000
	Class VII.	
Vote 1.	Temporary Commissions ...	9,000
	Class II.	
Vote 23.	Stationery and Printing ...	110,000
Vote 27.	Secretary for Scotland, Office of	100
	Class III.	
Vote 2.	Miscellaneous Legal Expenses	400
	Class IV.	
Vote 5.	Wallace Collection	3,333
Vote 8.	London University	70
	Class V.	
Vote 1.	Diplomatic and Consular Services	15,800
Vote 6.	Treasury Chest Fund ...	66,108
	Class VI.	
Vote 1.	Superannuation and Retired Allowances	10,000
Vote 5.	Savings Banks and Friendly Societies Deficiencies ...	51,758
	Class VII.	
Vote 2.	Miscellaneous Expenses ...	4,600
Vote 6.	Local Loans Fund	4,337
Vote 7.	Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York (Visit to the Colonies)	20,000
Vote 8.	Funeral of Her late Majesty	35,500
	REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.	
Vote 2.	Inland Revenue	20,000
Vote 3.	Post Office	130,000
Vote 4.	Post Office Packet Service...	10
	Total Civil Services and Revenue Departments	£893,316

*Mr. LOUGH moved the reduction of the item by £100. His desire in doing so was to ask some explanation from the Colonial Secretary with regard to the military operations in Ashanti, of which very little was known in this country. Those military operations, we understood, were carried out entirely by black troops, who had not been employed on such an important expedition before, and were carried out very successfully, and he joined in the praise given to them for the way in which they had carried out their task. He, however, regarded war as a bad business, and a proof of bad diplomatists being in power, though when we got into war it had to be carried through in a businesslike manner. The Blue Book which had been distributed was almost completely filled with the record of military operations to which he desired to make no further reference, as his object was to consider the clauses which led to their being undertaken. Turning to the question of policy, the Colonial Secretary was responsible for the settlement of the country after the military expedition of 1896, which had led to the late war. A military expedition went up to Coomassie in 1895, and in connection with that expedition a great constitutional change took place in the government of Ashanti. After that expedition Ashanti was united with the Gold Coast; King Prempeh, who was acknowledged as over-lord by the other native kings, was forcibly removed from the country, a British Resident was appointed, and the natives were called upon to pay not only the cost of the expedition, but the war of twenty-three years before, when Sir Garnet Wolseley seized the country, in the shape of an annual tribute.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): No, no. They were called upon to pay £12,500 per annum.

*MR. LOUGH said that was for the old war. The natives were required to pay a capital sum of £250,000, and they were also asked to pay the cost of the expedition of 1895–6.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The hon. Gentleman is labouring under a misapprehension; £12,500 was the total sum they were asked for.

*MR. LOUGH thought that if the right hon. Gentleman looked into the figures he would find that the total amount came to an annual payment of £20,000. But in addition to this heavy annual tribute on the poor natives, all the gold ornaments of King Prempeh and treasure that could be found in the country had been taken away.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Some of the articles were plated, others were pure gold, but the total value was quite insignificant. They had been valued by an expert at £1,000. They were exhibited for some time in London, and afterwards sold.

*MR. LOUGH said the right hon. Gentleman entirely failed to appreciate his point. The whole of the possessions of these unfortunate savages might not be of any value to us, but of very great value to them. And if these savages attached some sacred or historic value to these articles, it might be a means of conciliating them and making them content under our rule if we had to remove them from the country.

*MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: One of the most valuable of the articles was the sword of the executioner. I do not know if the hon. Member wishes that to be returned?

*MR. LOUGH said he undoubtedly wished it to be returned. He appealed to the House to consider this question seriously. Why could not the Government say to these people that so long as we remained rulers of the country their gold ornaments would always be safe? This was the first step in a policy of loot which had been pursued by the right hon. Gentleman from that day to this. We took the gold ornaments, the treasures, the sword of the executioner, and the king himself, and the result was that we disturbed twenty-five years of peace which had existed under our rule, and produced chaos and confusion in the country by disturbing the institutions with which the people were familiar. He implored the Committee to consider the results of the expedition in 1896. Let them take the results in Coomassie itself. Instead of being as it had been previously a prosperous African city, it was in a state of absolute desolation. By removing King Prempeh the Government got into bad relations with all the chiefs, who would have been able to deal with King Prempeh, he being able in turn to deal with us. We, however, took him away, and dealt directly, and eventually bad relations arose with all the minor kings. The Resident at Coomassie had unlimited power in the matter of fining these chiefs, and was under no obligation to make any return of the fines he exacted. That in itself was a bad system to encourage, and some restraint should be put upon it. The Resident in collecting the taxes also allowed the chiefs to keep 10 per cent. of all the money they got.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The sum which the chief has to find is a fixed amount, and he is only allowed to keep 10 per cent. of that. He would have no advantage in collecting a larger sum, because we do not ask for a larger sum, and should not receive it.

*MR. LOUGH complained of the right hon. Gentleman's constant interruption. He thought that the right hon. Gentleman's points were very thin. The Government fixed a sum which had never been collected in any one year, and which was, in his opinion, absolutely uncollectable. The Government fixed the amount at about 300 ounces of gold a year. He would ask the right hon. Gentleman, as a matter of fact, did the Government ever get from any king in one year the full amount which they had fixed?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The charge was fixed at the time when Sir Frederick Hodgson went to Coomassie. The war broke out immediately afterwards and consequently it was not collected, it is only now that we are going to receive it.

*MR. LOUGH contended that notwithstanding the right hon. Gentleman's explanation within the maximum fixed the Resident is entitled to take as much as he could and to allow the kings to retain 10 per cent. of whatever they brought in.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: If the hon. Gentleman complains of my interruptions and I cease to interrupt him he must not take it that I agree with what he says.

*MR. LOUGH: I do not object to being interrupted if I am inaccurate.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Oh, it is all inaccurate.

*MR. LOUGH said he challenged the wisdom of the Government in insisting upon annual payments of this kind. When Sir Frederick Hodgson went to Coomassie in 1895 he insisted that a large payment should be made by each king. He found fault with the Government because it had not succeeded in establishing good relations with the subject kings. Turning now to the military operations of last year, he had to bring before the House one of the most extraordinary stories it had ever heard. In December, 1899, there came to Accra an idiot boy who said that he knew where the Golden Stool was, and that if a white officer and some Hausas were sent secretly with him he would take them to the spot. The Governor actually accepted the story of this mad boy and sent out an expedition to seek for the Golden Stool and the treasure concealed with it. In March, 1900, the Governor went up to Coomassie, where he had a palaver with the Ashanti kings and chiefs at which he made a speech to them. These natives had tried all they could, as he ventured to think, to remain peaceful subjects of this country, but when Sir F. Hodgson demanded from them this large tribute and the Golden Stool, and told them that the over-lordship of Prempeh would never be restored, they made no answer and were extremely dissatisfied. It was from that palaver that the siege of Coomassie arose and this dreadful war broke out. The Hausa soldiers behaved most gallantly, and we lost 200 or 300 of them, and perhaps nearly 1,000 carriers. The slaughter among our opponents, who it must be remembered were British subjects and had been so for twenty-five years, was immense, but no attempt had been made to calculate it. He wanted the Committee to consider three points. First, in regard to the Golden Stool. To the Ashantis this was a most serious matter. The Golden Stool meant a throne on which the king sat as the over-lord of all the other kings and chiefs. Now, why should we remove that Golden Stool from Ashanti? This war had been caused entirely by the unsympathetic policy of the Colonial Office and the inability of the resident Governor to deal with these people who were struggling for an idea, namely, that the over-lord of the country should be allowed to be the means of communication between them and us. What was wrong in that? He did not say anything now about King Prempeh, for there was another alternative, Atcheri Boanda, whom the Ashantis, if we objected to Prempeh, would accept as an over-lord, and who was willing to render homage to us. Why should we not accept that system of government under which the people were willing to live? He maintained that the whole attempt to take the Golden Stool had been a mistake. His next point was the tribute. This tribute was not for the purpose of governing the country, but for the cost of Sir Garnet Wolseley's war in 1873–4, and the expedition of 1896, and the last war—a total of £400,000. It was no wonder that these natives were driven into revolt. We had got in Ashanti one of the richest gold-producing countries in the world, and the idea of making these poor people pay the cost of our acquiring their own country seemed to him one of the most iniquitous propositions ever made. He would leave the morality of the transaction aside, because that argument might not appeal to many hon. Gentlemen opposite. We had never got the tribute, and why should we continue to send costly expeditions to exact it? It was absolute folly to torture these poor people into rebellion. Another point was that during these four years, in which we have been mis-governing the country, we have allowed the free importation of arms there. [AN HON. MEMBER: From Birmingham.] In regard to policy, then, he might sum up the matter by asking five questions. He would ask the Colonial Secretary whether the constitutional principle of a native over-lord who would be an intermediary between the Ashantis and this country to facilitate government might not be accepted by the Colonial Office. Second, he asked the Colonial Secretary to promise that there should be no more hunts after the Golden Stool, that we should leave it in the country, and assure the Ashantis full protection in that and their other property. Third, he would ask the Colonial Secretary to promise that the fines which the Residents were allowed to exact from the chiefs without giving any report to the Government of the Gold Coast, or to the Colonial Office, would be put a stop to, and that a strict record of the fines exacted after proper trial should be kept. Fourth, the total cost of the three wars would amount to £900,000. We would never recover that £900,000, or even the interest on it; it was far too large a sum, and he would ask that all these attempts to exact this money might be abandoned. Finally, he would ask whether some better means of collecting the tax might not be arrived at than by a commission of 10 per cent. on the amount collected. The Ashantis were a valiant people, with many good qualities, their country was one of the richest in the world, and we should treat them with some sense of justice. He begged to move the reduction of the Vote by £100.

Whereupon Motion made, and Question proposed, "That item A, 1, Class 5, Vote 3, be reduced by £100."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

*MR. SYDNEY BUXTON thought his hon. friend was fully justified in raising this question, and he would like to associate himself in regard to what had fallen from him with reference to the military operations. It was essential that the Governor should be rescued, and that those besieging him in Coomassie should be tought a lesson for the future. He thought the ability and efficiency with which the military operations had been carried out reflected great credit on General Sir J. Willcocks and the men of the West African Field Force whom he commanded. If we were to have these expeditions on the West Coast of Africa it was satisfactory that instead of using white men or the West Indian regiments we should be able to fall back on what was really a very efficient and economical force. Some further explanation and defence of these two expeditions was demanded from the right hon. the Colonial Secretary, and some justification for the policy which led to them. The first did not involve any actual fighting, but the second, involving very considerable fighting and bloodshed, was a bolt from the blue. The unexpected had happened, as unfortunately had been too frequently the case in the record of the present Government, and the Secretary of State must bear the responsibility for what he could only call a costly muddle. The reason given by the Governor in his despatches why this war suddenly broke out was, that there had been compulsory labour enforced in one of the sections, that various attempts had been made to recover the Golden Stool, and the imposition of very considerable fines for past wars. These were all matters which had been the subject of negotiations for a long time, and the Government and Colonial Secretary ought to have appreciated their importance, and to have done something to soothe the irritation caused by them. The general proposition he ventured to lay down in regard to this war, and in regard to the wars we had had in every one of our colonies on the West Coast of Africa during the past five years, was, that in his system of colonial development and extension the right hon. Gentleman had been too much in a hurry, and had been treading in many cases on the susceptibilities of the natives and interfering too rapidly with their customs, laws, and systems. Some tact, discretion, and patience was needed in dealing with these tribes. The right hon. Gentleman admitted that plea?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: No, I do not.

*MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said that at all events his argument was that, while he agreed with the general view that these colonies must be developed, there were many ways of developing them, and he thought the right hon. Gentleman had tended to move too quickly. As regarded this particular outbreak, he attributed it largely to two causes. In 1896 an expedition was sent up to Coomassie which did not meet with armed opposition. The right hon. Gentleman's instructions to the Governor were that he was to see that King Prempeh made submission to the English Government and accepted an English Resident. Prempeh agreed to the Resident, and had to make submission in the most humiliating way. That was necessary under the circumstances. But after Prempeh had submitted, the Governor, acting under the direct instructions of the Secretary of State, made further demands—the immediate payment of a fine of 50,000 ounces of gold as an indemnity for past wars. Prempeh said that he had not 50,000 ounces of gold in his pocket. But the Governor would not accept that plea, and though he had given the King and the tribes no notice, he, by what seemed to them an act of treachery, took possession of the person of Prempeh and his immediate followers, sent them down to the coast, and then to Sierre Leone, where they were still in prison. Now, however great a tyrant Prempeh might have been, and however bad his moral qualities, at all events we had acknowledged him some years before, we had negotiated with him, we had never given him notice either that we were going to raise this claim for a large sum of money, or that we would take him, in default, a political prisoner out of his country and never allow him to return to it. He maintained that the Ashantis were fully justified in thinking that we had committed an act of treachery, and therefore it was not likely that they would trust us again. Moreover, when Prempeh was taken prisoner he was promised good treatment. When a discussion was raised some little time ago on the point that Prempeh was hardly receiving that treatment which, under the circumstances, he should have got, the right hon. Gentleman, with a sneer, described the King as a drunken blackguard, or words to that effect.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I do not recognise my own words. Perhaps that is the interpretation of the hon. Gentleman.

*MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he had not the reference by him, but the right hon. Gentleman spoke in such a way of this man as to imply that whatever his treatment it was not worse than he deserved. It was treatment on which the tribes might naturally feel sore. Then what happened? The Governor went up to Coomassie, which had been in the meantime fortified and armed. He then called a palaver of the chiefs and kings of the neighbouring tribes and made them a speech, in which he said they must be under no misapprehension that Prempeh would ever be restored as king; that the Queen was now paramount chief, that being the policy of the Government. He (the hon. Member) had no objection to that particular part of the speech; but the Government went on to talk about compulsory labour for the service of the State, which the chiefs did not seem to have at all appreciated; and then he raised the question of the indemnity. This question had been raised before by the Governor, who himself said that it was most distasteful to the chiefs, and had been received by them with the greatest dissatisfaction. Then the Governor raised the question of the Golden Stool, and said it must be given up to the Queen. That was a matter on which the chiefs and kings felt most strongly, and which most likely would induce them to take up arms against the British Government. While the Governor was negotiating with the people in this way he did what, again, must have seemed to them almost an act of treachery by sending up an armed force to endeavour to obtain the Golden Stool by stealth. Under these circumstances, it seemed an extraordinary thing that the right hon. Gentleman should have sent up the Governor to make these extreme demands on the Ashantis with a totally inadequate force and with only one or two days preparation. He (the hon. Member) had endeavoured to show adequately the actual historical facts of the case; and he maintained that this was a most unfortunate way of dealing with these tribes, who naturally did not wish to be brought under British control. Surely, it would have been better for the right hon. Gentleman to have endeavoured to gain his ends by tact, patience, and consideration for the susceptibilities of these tribes, rather than by armed force to the great effusion of blood, and great loss to the colony and to the Empire. His hon. friend the Member for Islington had asked various questions to which he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give adequate answers. Many very difficult matters were arising in the colonies. In several of his despatches, Sir F. Hodgson, the Governor, mentioned as a reason why he was in such a hurry that the gold miners were anxious to get up country; and there were other matters on which there would be acute differences of opinion before long. If these little wars, and big wars too, were to be avoided in future, it must be by some greater desire than at present to respect the susceptibilities of the natives.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The Committee has listened to two speeches. The first was from the hon. Member for West Islington, who takes, I believe, a great interest in this matter. He is a private Member who has never held any official position, and who may therefore easily fall into error, as we all do when we are unacquainted with the inner side of questions of this kind. But he asks very fairly for information to enable him to form a final opinion. I respect his desire, and I shall endeavour to fulfil it; and, although I do not agree with a great deal that he has said, I am hopeful that I may persuade him that there are reasons leading to this policy of which he is necessarily ignorant, and which when he knows them may probably alter his views. But it is quite a different thing with the hon. Member who has just sat down. He has been inside. He knows all the inner facts with reference to these matters. He is, therefore, pitting one official policy against another, and, of course, the issue becomes much more important. The hon. Member who has just sat down has explained that his idea of colonial policy is a policy of tact, patience, and discretion. He has also stated that he thinks it most undesirable to interfere with native customs; and that the system of development which is now going on, although it may have some advantages, nevertheless has been pressed with great precipitancy by the present occupant of the office of Colonial Secretary. That indicates a different policy, indeed; but I do not know that I should describe in the terms which the hon. Gentleman used the policy of my predecessor which he would press upon me. When I first came into this office I rather hoped that my action would be less the subject of contention than it had been in the past; that colonial questions would be treated as a non-party matter; and that I might expect, especially as I desired as far as possible to continue the policy of the office, to have the support of gentlemen who in other things might be political opponents. But I have been disappointed. I have not had their support; and perhaps the time has now come when it is desirable that the issue should be clearly stated and the two policies should be presented to the House in all their consequences, so that the House may judge between them.

What is the theory of the hon. Member for Poplar? It is that all these colonies were enjoying a sort of Elysian happiness; that these natives, who, as the hon. Gentleman says, have their good qualities, were engaged in peaceful, innocent pursuits; that the colonies were proceeding gradually towards a higher civilisation, and that if they had only been left alone no evil consequences could have resulted. And then upon this picture a baneful shadow is cast—the shadow of the Colonial Secretary. Everything is changed. War takes the place of peace and harmony, and the Ashanti, who was no doubt ploughing his furrows and living under his own vine and fig tree, is suddenly interfered with, his Golden Stool is taken from him, and all sorts of outrages are perpetrated on him in his domestic and political life, and his constitutional customs are interfered with. All these things follow the terrible advent of the bogey-man of the colonies. War, the loss of life, bloodshed, and the expenditure of treasure all follow. [AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear.] I am glad I have rightly represented the opinions of hon. Gentlemen opposite. That is all a romance, and it has the character peculiar to romance—there is not an atom or shadow of foundation for the story which is related.

What are the real facts? It is worth while asking, because this is a matter which is raised again and again. It was discussed in 1897, and now it is raised again as if it were a new question. The facts are these. Africa, as far as we were concerned with it, was some ten or twenty years ago a mere question of outposts. We and other European nations had stations on the coast, and the great interior was left to itself. Whether the condition of the great interior was the condition depicted by the hon. Member for West Islington in his natural ignorance of the circumstances, whether the tribes of Africa were engaged in constitutional disputes, is a different question, but, at all events, we had no responsibility for the state of affairs in the centre of Africa. But about that time began what has been called the scramble for Africa, and that scramble was going on during the period when the hon. Member for Poplar was Under Secretary for the Colonies. What action did the Colonial Office take in those circumstances? Their action was characterised by "tact," "discretion," "patience," and "non-interference"; in other words, they did nothing. In the most critical stage of our history as an empire in Africa, the Colonial Office was silent and inept, and the result of that was that our colonies in West Africa and elsewhere were being surrounded and their value destroyed by the advance of other nations. If we remained "quiet," "tactful," "patient," and "indifferent," other nations did not pursue that course of policy, and they pressed forward their posts, very often in apparent indifference to our previous claims. The danger was serious that in a very short time we should find all our colonies on this coast enclosed and depreciated, just as our colony of Gambia had been many years ago. Well, when we came into office we found every important and critical question left unsettled. Of course there was no war in times like that. When the policy is one of avoiding a war at all costs it is easy enough to keep the peace —for a time; but meanwhile you are losing your position. Our position was in danger, and we had to take serious steps. I am not going into details of our relations with foreign countries, but we had to raise a considerable force, the West African frontier force. At that time we had no force whatever worth the name that could protect our rights and position in West Africa, while foreign countries had large forces at their disposal. We had to create a force; and let me say I rejoice that hon. Members opposite agree with me in praise of that force, and of the way in which it has been conducted by Sir James Willcocks, who was senior officer under General Lugard, and also of the action of other native forces concerned in putting down the native rebellion. But we had to create this force, and the result of that was that we had to come to terms with foreign countries. We had, at the same time, to negotiate with Germany and France. We have made arrangements which have not excited much public attention, but as to which I will only say that I think they were fair arrangements, in which we gained all, or nearly all, that we hoped to gain, and, perhaps, as much as we could expect to gain in peaceful and friendly negotiation with other Powers. We have secured, therefore, vast Hinterlands for these colonies which otherwise would have been shut in, and which have now become spheres of influence or British protectorates. And we have no longer, I am happy to say, an international question. We have settled the questions which the hon. Member and his Government left unsettled. That is something. I only state this to the Committee now to point out that as long as we were allowing foreign countries to take our territory, and to repudiate all obligations, it was a very simple matter. It did not matter what happened in these countries. We allowed them to go into foreign hands, or if they remained independent we were not responsible for what happened within them. But the moment we had defined boundaries internationally agreed upon we entered upon a new series of obligations and responsibilities. For my part, I am perfectly ready to agree with anyone who would say that it would have been better for other countries as well as for us if this scramble for Africa had been still further postponed. But it was not we who began the scramble, and we could not fail to take our part in protecting our interests. But from the moment that this new condition of things was established we had to deal with protectorates and spheres of influence for which hitherto we had no responsibility. The hon. Member for Poplar complained of the present colonial policy because, forsooth, he said that we were interfering with the customs of the natives. What are the customs of the natives with which we are interfering? Human sacrifice is one, fetishism of all kinds is another, and slavery is another.

MR. LOUGH: I did not mention either of those, or blame you for them.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I am not now directing myself to the speech of the hon. Member. His time will come. The hon. Member for Poplar said we had interfered unjustly and imprudently with native customs. He did not indicate the customs, of course; but the only customs with which we interfered were human sacrifice, fetishism, and slavery.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I did not mention any of these, and none of my remarks could possibly have been directed to them. My argument was that with a little more tact, a little more patience, and a little more discretion, the friction between the natives and ourselves might have been solved.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Unfortunately I have a habit of desiring to get to close quarters. All that the hon. Member says is vague. He says we interfered with native customs, but he did not specify them. I defy the hon. Member to find anything else with which we have interfered beyond human sacrifice and other cruel and savage fetish customs and slavery. [Mr. BUXTON assented.] Oh, yes, the hon. Member agrees, but he is one of those who is continually attacking this Government because we do not take sufficient steps to stop slavery. I want the Committee to consider what that means. We have suddenly, by the necessity I have endeavoured to explain, become responsible for vast areas of country in which we now exercise protectorates and spheres of influence. The hon. Member and a few of his friends are continually pressing us—we do not want to be pressed, because we, at any rate, sympathise with their views—to interfere with native customs and to interfere with slavery—not merely with the slave raids, but with slave-holding, with domestic slavery. That has been pressed upon us again and again; and although the hon. Member was in office himself I did not observe that he was particularly keen with regard to it. We have been more so. We have declared in all these places that the legal status of slavery shall be abolished. We have gone further than the hon. Member went or ever dared to go. We have done that, knowing what the consequences are. The consequences are war. It is not a question of tact, discretion, or patience. When you say to these savage tribes, who for centuries have exercised these rights of slave-raiding, who regard labour as something discreditable, and to whom it is necessary they should have slaves in order to preserve their personal dignity, "From this day, when the British flag and the British protectorate come, there is an absolute prohibition of slave-raiding," then you have to fight for your principles. And that is why in this case the hon. Member and my predecessors left all these things without dealing with them—because, although they had such strong views upon slavery, they did not dare to prohibit it or interfere with it. Their "tact, discretion, and patience" resulted in peace being kept; and now we are prepared to give effect to the policy—which I believe to be the policy of both sides in this House—of saying boldly that we will not allow these customs to continue. It is on that account we find ourselves in frequent contest with some of these native populations.

That is the general statement. Now apply it to this case of Ashanti. What is the case? The hon. Member for West Islington has not said enough in praise of the Ashantis. They are a very brave and gallant native race. They have been the predominant race in that part of Africa; but what is the result of being the predominant race? They themselves would do no work whatever. They insisted upon having slaves, and were constantly attacking the tribes in their neighbourhood. There was no peace or security for life or property within reach of them, and trade was impossible throughout the territory. They maintained themselves by a tyranny which was natural to them as a great African tribe, but which we could not tolerate from the moment we had any responsibility. The hon. Member would have been the first to criticise us if we had allowed it to continue. The Ashantis were a slave-raiding people. They were guilty of human sacrifices; they exercised a tyranny over the neighbouring tribes, and by their superior strength and fighting ability they kept this "overlordship" of which the hon. Member speaks. The hon. Member speaks of these savage tribes of Africa as though he was speaking of a modern European Power. He talks of the Ashantis fighting for their "constitutional rights." The Ashantis, if they understood what constitutional rights meant, would explain that their constitutional rights were to exercise absolute power and authority over all neighbouring tribes, to make slaves of them, to procure from them all the labour they required; and, if they did not get it, and tribute also whenever they desired it, to torture them, sacrifice them to their fetish, and generally treat them with the utmost barbarity. Seeing the condition of civilisation in which they were, we may make allowance for the Ashantis that they knew no better; but it is absurd to treat these tribes as if they were members of a civilised community; and nothing of the kind was attempted. The hon. Member has spoken of the Ashantis as having been British subjects for twenty-five years; but in that he is absolutely and entirely mistaken. We never claimed any authority whatever over them until recently. That we claimed their territory as within our sphere of influence, excluding the influence of other European Powers, is true; but we claimed nothing in the nature of sovereignty over them. They were an independent Power under treaty with us, made after the original expedition to which the hon. Member has gone back, under which they were to pay us a certain indemnity. They have never paid that indemnity. In the time of Sir William Maxwell the question of that indemnity came up.

But now let me pause for a moment. I make a great distinction between the hon. Member for West Islington and the hon. Member for Poplar. The hon. Member for West Islington spoke in harsh terms of the Resident at Coomassie, who, he said, was left too free a hand and showed no discretion. He spoke of Sir Frederick Hodgson as having followed the advice of a mad boy, and generally conveyed the impression that these officers of the Crown, working under very difficult circumstances, were either fools or knaves. I will answer him with all courtesy, and I hope I may persuade him to deal differently in future with these officers. But what shall I say to the hon. Member for Poplar? He spoke of Sir William Maxwell as guilty of an act of treachery, and he was so pleased with the word applied to an Englishman now dead, appointed by the Government of which the hon. Member was a member—so pleased was he with the phrase that he went on to speak of Sir Frederick Hodgson as also guilty of an act of treachery, and I think he was also appointed by the Government of which the hon. Member was a member. These two Englishmen, or Scotchmen—I believe both are Scotchmen—these two Britons, appointed by the Government of which the hon. Member is the representative in the House on this question, appointed to responsible positions in places in which the difficulties are tremendous, in which a man carries his life in his hand every day, in which if he has not the confidence of his superiors here he could do nothing, and in which, therefore, a certain amount of discretion must be left to him—these two British Gentlemen the hon. Member declares with real delight, and he gloats over the fact, were guilty of acts of treachery. They were guilty of no such acts. The thing is impossible. I implore the Committee to resent these attacks on men who have saved the Empire abroad. You may attack the Colonial Secretary. That is all right. That is a political business. If the hon. Member had said that I had been guilty of treachery I would have said "Of course." I know that in his opinion and that of his friends I am not guilty of anything else.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I simply said that in all these matters the Secretary of State is responsible for what is done. I explained the reasons why I used the word, and the particular incidents to which I referred. But the responsibility is, of course, with the right hon. Gentleman, not with the officials.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: That is a curious way of putting responsibility upon me. What the hon. Gentleman said was that Sir William Maxwell and Sir Frederick Hodgson were guilty of acts of treachery. Then he says I was responsible. Of course I am officially responsible for everything that my subordinates do, but that does not in the least diminish or attenuate the charge he brought against these two officials. I am responsible. I accept responsibility as I have said. Neither Sir William Maxwell nor Sir Frederick Hodgson was guilty of acts of treachery. As regards Sir William Maxwell, that is really ancient history. It is now five years ago that Sir William Maxwell went up to Coomassie. He was not opposed on the route, and a great palaver of chiefs was called. He explained his demands, and those demands were refused.

MR. LOUGH: What were they?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Oh, I will not go into that. That is not the point. The hon. Member is referring to a matter which was debated in 1896, and I certainly decline to deal with it in 1901. Sir William Maxwell's demands were refused, and he removed Prempeh to the coast as the king who had refused his terms. The expedition accordingly was so far successful that it was concluded without a single drop of blood having been shed. And when you come to ask, what is the cause of the subsequent disturbance, I have no hesitation in saying that it was the bloodlessness of the previous expedition. The people of Ashanti, in common with every savage tribe, hold it to be a point of honour to fight for their chief, and to fight for their cause. They are ready to accept defeat, but they are not ready to accept the consequences of defeat without actual conflict. If you want to get at the bottom of the recent disturbance you will find it in the fact that these people were called upon to suffer the consequences of defeat without having been defeated. The result was they nourished the intention of rising on the first opportunity, and anybody who reads the Blue-book will see that preparations were being made, and it was quite certain that sooner or later the Ashanti warriors would desire to try conclusions with the British before they finally submitted. The hon. Member for West Islington says, very truly, that Sir Frederick Hodgson went up to Coomassie. He says that there was a mediæval fort established at Coomassie. I am thankful that it was not a mediæval fort, or it would not have sustained the siege it had to sustain.

MR. LOUGH: I did not say mediæval. I quoted from the Blue-book—a square fort with round towers at the corners.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I will not pursue that. If the hon. Member quotes from the Blue-book he is quite safe. But this fort was established there very properly, and very properly Sir Frederick Hodgson, in accordance with instructions to every Governor on the West Coast to take an early opportunity of visiting these Protectorates in the Hinterland, decided to go up to Coomassie. He went with a small force, not a provocative force, and called a meeting of the chiefs, to whom he desired to explain the intentions of the Government. Let me first deal with the incident of the Golden Stool. That really is of collateral and not of very great importance. Sir Frederick Hodgson did not ask my permission to go for the Golden Stool, but, speaking now after the event, I entirely approve of his attempt to secure it. The Golden Stool is of very great "moral and intellectual value." It is not loot in the sense the hon. Member supposes. It has no great pecuniary value. If we got it we should not have melted it down for bullion. But in the opinion of the tribe and according to the custom of the tribe the possession of the Stool gives supremacy. And if, therefore, we could secure this stool we should be doing more for the peace of Ashanti than, probably, by any armed expedition. Therefore, it was of the greatest importance to get hold of this symbol of sovereignty if we could possibly do it. The hon. Member for West Islington ridicules the proceedings of the Governor. He says he got hold of a mad boy. What does he mean by that? Does he know the boy?

MR. LOUGH: I quoted from the Blue-book. It says, "He came to the conclusion that the boy was mad."

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The boy was at all events apparently in possession of his senses when he stated to Sir Frederick Hodgson that he had come from certain chiefs who were custodians of the Golden Stool, and were prepared to deliver it up to the British Government if they would send a representative to receive it. I think he will find that the Blue-book says the boy seemed mad with terror. The exact words are these. It was after the boy had been summoned to carry the expedition through a country which was supposed to be hostile, and in which there had been evidence of hostility. The track came to an abrupt ending on the edge of a dense forest, and at that point the report says, "The boy was now practically off his head with fear." If everyone who showed signs of fear after such an experience as the boy had were to be shut up in a lunatic asylum, I think there would be need for very much extended accommodation. The hon. Member has entirely misunderstood what he has read in the Blue-book. There is no pretence for saying the boy was mad. No Governor would be justified in neglecting the information which was sent to him that he could have this emblem if he sent for it. Sir Frederick Hodgson did send for it, but the expedition failed because, as we understand, the chiefs themselves became afraid and refused to deliver up the Stool, and the boy was unable to indicate the exact spot where it was. To say that the Governor was wrong in seeking for it is altogether a mistake, considering the extreme importance which a symbol of this kind has among a savage population. The second complaint made by the hon. Member is that Sir Frederick Hodgson asked for interest for the expenses of the wars of 1876 and 1893 and the present expedition.

MR. LOUGH: I said that that would be seen in the despatches. The right hon. Gentleman himself includes in the Estimates before us the amount which is to be recovered from the Gold Coast, if possible.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Sir Frederick Hodgson did nothing of the kind. The hon. Gentleman is, at all events, a sufficient arithmetician to know that the interest on those sums would be enormously greater than what we are asking for. It is all clearly stated. When we undertake responsibility for these protectorates, when we have to prevent slave raiding, to interfere with native customs, we must establish a police and get some kind of income from the population. The chiefs before us got a tribute. Our tribute is, at all events, regularly paid. It is not exorbitant, and is not capable of being made an engine of extortion by the chiefs. We must have a reasonable contribution from the population for which we are responsible. We decided to ask for £12,500 a year as a direct tax of about 4s. per head on the male population, to be collected by the kings and chiefs of the various tribes on the understanding that they were to receive 10 per cent. for the collection. That is a condition to which I attach the greatest importance, and which I am making in every case in which a native tax is collected. We do not want to destroy the authority of the native chiefs, but to regulate it. We are not making these vast territories parts of our colonies, but protectorates over which our control is more or less indirect. We desire to govern through the chiefs, to regulate their action, but not to interfere with their dignity and position. Therefore we allow them to take a certain proportion of every tax collected for the budget of the protectorate itself. We wanted £12,500 towards the expenses of the protectorate, and we were advised by Sir Frederick Hodgson — although the hon. Member for Poplar said we acted against his advice——

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: No, I did not say that.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I refer the hon. Member to a report of his speech. I will read a quotation from the despatch sent to Sir Frederick Hodgson, who naturally knew most about local prejudice. He suggested it should not be called a tax or a tribute, but interest on the debt incurred in the wars of 1876 and 1893, which he stated the Ashantis would understand as perfectly just. In a despatch to Sir Frederick Hodgson I stated, "I observe that you concur with these proposals, and that you agree that the collection of this revenue is not likely to cause any serious trouble." We had to collect revenue, properly due, for the protection and government of the protectorate, and the question was by what name it should be called—a direct tax or tribute or interest. We took local opinion, and that local opinion was to the effect that under the latter name it would be more acceptable to the Ashantis. I daresay the Ashantis, like most other people, objected to any tribute or tax; but was that the real cause of the outbreak? Certainly not. In the statements some of them made to our agents on the Gold Coast they put as the first reason for their objection to British rule, our interference with slavery. They said we were interfering with their domestic labour and their right to hold slaves.

MR. LOUGH: Is that in the Blue-book?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Yes. I thought the hon. Member said he knew the Blue-book. Here is the quotation—

> "King of Iuabin Yaw Sapong states that about two years ago he heard that the Ashantis were plotting to fight the English, and getting guns, powder, and lead from the coast in small quantities, for these reasons: that they thought

the Government would send their king and chiefs back after punishing them by staying in strange land for some time, but they had seen no sign of their returning back to Ashanti; that their slaves used to run away from them, and were helped by the Government giving them freedom; also they were forced to roof houses, and had been stopped to deal in slaves; and also the white man at Coomassie fined them too much."

Another quotation has been put into my hand, a despatch from the Governor, in which he states—

> "The other and larger party had determined to fight unless the Governor complied with the following conditions, which they had been requested to state:—(1) Prempeh to be given back, and to regulate and collect any annual payment to be made. (2) Permission to buy and sell slaves as in the old time."

I think, Sir, I have now answered the questions put to me by the hon. Member.

MR. LOUGH: The question of fines.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Oh, yes. I really hardly understand the hon. Gentleman's complaint. It is quite natural that the Resident should be empowered to impose a small fine for minor breaches of discipline. We do not wish to destroy the authority of the chiefs by imprisoning them, therefore a certain discretion to inflict small fines—in no case have fines been of a large amount—must necessarily be left to the Resident. But when the hon. Member says the Resident is under no obligation to report those fines, I do not know where he gets that information.

MR LOUGH: In the Blue-book. Sir Frederick Hodgson, speaking of the cause of the war in a more serious way than the right hon. Gentleman has spoken of it, says—

> "The responsibility of fining rests entirely with the Resident, who has not been required to report to the Governor this exercise of power on his part. I became aware of the fact that there was discontent arising from this cause when on my way to Coomassie, the King of Adansi having made it a matter of complaint when I met him at Kwisa. It was also mentioned to me by Opoku Mensa, the senior member of the Coomassie Native Committee. But for the sudden outbreak of the revolt it was a matter which I should have carefully looked into."

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I do not understand why the hon. Member should fall into an error, which is becoming common in these times, of quoting paragraphs without their contexts. Here is the context which has been omitted by the hon. Member—

> "The imposition of fines is necessary in connection with the maintenance of authority, and I cannot find that the exercise of this system had in any way been abused."

Well, Sir, I have now endeavoured to reply to the questions put to me, and also to put the Committee in possession of the general principles involved in this matter. It is not to be supposed that native wars such as this in which we have been engaged are the peculiar result of the presence in office of the Colonial Secretary. The hon. Member is no doubt aware that there have been small wars not only in those parts of Africa which are under the Colonial Office, but also in East Africa, in Nigeria, and in Somaliland, which are under the Foreign Office. I have always observed that when it is desired to complete the case against the Colonial Secretary he is confronted with his colleague and chief, the Prime Minister, and he is told that the Prime Minister is always anxious and desirous for peace if peace can be preserved with honour. I beg humbly to say that I share that view with the Prime Minister. But, for the moment, let us suppose that there is a distinction to be drawn. Then how does the hon. Gentleman account for the fact that even with the beneficent and peaceful influence of the Prime Minister there have been, I think, five native wars in countries which are under the Foreign Office? Surely under those circumstances there must be some general influence at work. It is not due to the particular iniquity of the Colonial Secretary. What that general influence is I have endeavoured to represent to the Committee. It is that this Government has decided from the first to deal with a strong hand with those questions which the party opposite allowed to drift. We have settled those questions of boundaries and spheres of influence in West Africa satisfactorily and peacefully so far as European Powers are concerned. That was a gigantic work.

But from the moment we undertook responsibility for those spheres of influence it became necessary, unless we were to take the advice of hon. Members opposite not to interfere in native customs, that we should be prepared for the attacks of native tribes whose customs we had interfered with. For one man—I have pointed this out before—that is killed in a war of this kind, hundreds of men will in future generations have life and peace and security for their possessions.

This great continent of Africa possesses every advantage for the races native to it. Why have the native inhabitants not multiplied? Why are they still so largely out of proportion to the gigantic extent of the continent? It is because for centuries, possibly for thousands of years, there have been going on these internecine contests between different tribes, attended by terrible loss of life. First one tribe assumes superiority; then another, equally arbitrary, cruel, and tyrannical, obtains the primary position. That state of things has been put a stop to. The moment we came into our sphere of influence or protectorate we made it our business to establish once and for all that great *Pax Britannica* which we established in India, where similar conditions existed before our rule was firmly established. We have had to go through trials and difficulties and bloodshed before that rule was established; but once it was established there was ample compensation for all we suffered, and ample compensation to the natives who will benefit by our more generous and more just rule. It has been said that the colony is a burden to the United Kingdom, that this Vote of £400,000 which the war has cost must be borne by the Imperial Exchequer. I have not the slightest doubt whatever but that the whole of it will be repaid. It is, properly speaking, a loan, though, in accordance with precedent, it is put down as a grant-in-aid. If it had not been for the last rebellion the surplus from the Gold Coast would have amounted to more than £50,000, and we should have been able to pay off at least one-half of the cost of the previous expedition. I believe that the surplus will be increased in future, and I have not the slightest doubt that this expenditure will be repaid to the British Exchequer in the course of a reasonable number of years. The hon. Member for Poplar said that in our policy we have been too hasty. We have not only secured the boundaries, but we have undertaken the devolepment of the territories within those boundaries. Within five years we have added 446 miles of railway to the West Coast of Africa. Within the same period the exports of British produce—produce of British origin, not of foreign manufactured goods—passing through Great Britain have increased from a little over £2,000,000 a year to over £3,000,000 a year. That is to say, we have increased the exports of this country to the colony by 50 per cent. That is not a bad record. It is one of which I am not at all ashamed.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON: I wish to make a personal explanation. The right hon. Gentleman more than once said that I accused two of our officials of treachery. What I said was that their action might be looked on by the Ashantis as treachery. I apologise if I did not make myself clear, but I should be the last man in the House to accuse any public official of treachery.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I am glad to hear that explanation of the hon. Gentleman, and I entirely accept it.

It being midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again to-morrow.

Adjourned at five minutes after
Twelve of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 19th March, 1901.

Several Lords took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

MILFORD DOCKS BILL [H.L.].

Committed.

HARPENDEN DISTRICT GAS BILL [H.L.].

Committed; the Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

POULTON-LE-FYLDE GAS BILL [H.L.].

Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, no parties having appeared in opposition thereto; read, and ordered to lie on the Table: The orders made on the 8th instant and Thursday last discharged, and Bill committed.

DOVER CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, no parties having appeared in opposition thereto; read, and ordered to lie on the Table: The orders made on the 8th instant and Thursday last discharged, and Bill committed.

HENRY DIAPER AND COMPANY (DELIVERY WARRANTS) BILL [H.L.].

Reported with Amendments.

MANCHESTER (MARKET STREET AREA) IMPROVEMENTS BILL [H.L.].

Read 2^a (according to order).

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Papers relating to negotiations between Commandant Louis Botha and Lord Kitchener.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP (USE OF LEAD IN THE MANUFACTURE OF POTTERY).

Reports received by the Secretary of State for the Home Department from Professor T. E. Thorpe, C.B., LL.D., F.R.S., Principal of the Government Laboratory, on the use of lead in the manufacture of pottery.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

SUPERANNUATION.

Treasury Minute, dated 14th March, 1901, declaring that William C. Hoskins, labourer, Royal Laboratory, War Department, was appointed without a Civil Service certificate, through inadvertence on the part of the head of his department. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GENERAL BOTHA.

EARL SPENCER: My Lords, I wish to ask the noble Marquess at the head of the Government if he can give the House any information as to the result of negotiations between Lord Kitchener and the Boer leader.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of SALISBURY): My Lords, such information as I have I shall be glad to give, though I am afraid it will not be satisfactory to the noble Earl. General Botha has informed Lord Kitchener by letter that he is not disposed to recommend the terms of peace which Lord Kitchener had been instructed to offer to the earnest consideration of his Government, and he adds that his Government and chief officers are entirely in agreement with his views. Papers in connection with these negotiations will be laid on the Table at once.

PRISONS (SCOTLAND) BILL [H.L.].

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

***THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH)**: My Lords, I do not think I need detain the House many minutes in explaining the provisions of this Bill. It is not at all an ambitious Bill, but in its clauses will be found a series of small reforms which the experience of the working of the prisons in Scotland during the last few years has shown to be expedient, and some of which were actually the subject of recommenda-

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

tions by the Departmental Committee, presided over by my noble friend Lord Elgin, which I appointed about eighteen months ago, and which presented a report last year. The clauses of the Bill require but very little explanation. In the main, I think, they tell their own tale to anyone who reads them with ordinary care. The first one provides statutory powers for the appointment of visiting committees for the three general prisons in Scotland. In the case of all the ordinary prisons the visiting committees are appointed by the town and county councils in the district which the prison serves. There are three general prisons, and in regard to them there is no statutory power for the appointment of a visiting committee. Two of these prisons are mainly used for the confinement of ordinary prisoners, and in the case of those prisons the visiting committee will, if this Bill passes, be appointed in the same way as the committees of the ordinary prisons —by the town and county councils concerned. In the case of the Peterhead prison, which is the only establishment in Scotland entirely occupied by convicts, the visiting committee will be appointed by the Secretary for Scotland, but instead of being a purely voluntary body, as it is at present, it will, when appointed, have certain statutory functions and duties which will, I think, put it in a better position than it is at present.

In regard to Clause 2, I have only to say that it deals with the vexed question of corporal punishment. Your Lordships will remember that during the passing of the Prisons Bill for England two or three years ago a considerable amount of discussion arose in regard to the question of flogging. In Scotland our law is different from that which obtains in England. No ordinary prisoner can under any circumstances be flogged, but only convict prisoners. This clause therefore applies only to the convict prison at Peterhead. The punishment is very rarely resorted to; not more than two or three times in the year. At present it is only inflicted by order of one or other of the Prison Commissioners when he is at the convict prison. The proposal of the Bill is to take it out of the power of the Commissioner to order this punishment, and to provide that it can only be ordered by the Sheriff or the Sheriff-substitute of the district. The third clause of the Bill is copied from a section in the English Act, and its object is to insure that in the event of any prison having inadequate accommodation for those confined in it the fact shall be brought immediately under the notice of the Secretary for Scotland.

The next clause is also similar to one in the English Act, and it introduces the principle of allowing a remission, in the case of ordinary hard-labour prisoners, of part of their sentence, provided they earn it by good behaviour or in some similar way. At the present time in Scotland, as was the case under the old procedure in England, the remission of part of a sentence can only be earned in the case of convicts. For the last two years there has been a provision in the law of England to allow hard-labour prisoners to earn a remission of part of their sentence, and we propose to extend that to Scotland. I am informed that it has been found to work with success in the English prisons in which it has been introduced. The fifth clause also corresponds to a procedure in the English Act, and it is of an entirely technical nature. It provides, in common with what is the general practice in Scotland in the case of all common law prisoners, that when a month is passed of the sentence it shall be held to be a calendar month and not a period of four weeks. The sixth clause of the Bill provides that part of the duties which used to be carried out by the Governor of the general prison at Perth, who is now not in control of the criminal lunatic department, shall be carried out by the medical superintendent, who has been placed in supreme authority over that department.

Clause 7 is intended to remove a certain ambiguity in Section 72 of the Prisons (Scotland) Administration Act, which provides that when a prisoner is affected with a disease which is dangerous to life, and the treatment of which cannot be carried out in prison, he may be sent to an ordinary infirmary with the consent of the managers of that institution. The alteration which this clause makes is to allow us to send a prisoner into an outside infirmary either when the disease from which he is suffering is dangerous, or when the treatment cannot be carried out in prison. At present both of these conditions have to be fulfilled before we can carry out this measure. It is obvious that in many small prisons we cannot keep up a full infirmary and hospital staff on the chance of a prisoner requiring treatment, and it is on that ground that the proposal to remove them to a workhouse infirmary or to some such place is part of the law of Scotland. We propose by this alteration to slightly extend it. The eighth clause is intended to give effect to a recommendation of Lord Elgin's Committee, and to provide that in all cases of a prisoner dying in the prison an inquiry shall be held with regard to the cause of death.

The noble Earl behind me, the Earl of Glasgow, has very courteously given me notice that he intends to raise the question of providing for a further classification of prisoners. I think it will be found that in practice we go further than he wishes us to do. Our system is to some extent different from the English one. For example, we have not nearly the same proportion of hard-labour prisoners in Scotland to ordinary prisoners as there is in England, and as the work is carried on in cells, and not in gangs, classification is not so necessary. If the noble Earl will put the proposals he wishes to make in the form of an Amendment on the Paper, I shall be glad to give them my most careful consideration before the Bill goes into Committee. I do not anticipate any opposition at this stage.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^a."—(*The Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, agreed to. Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday next.

BERWICKSHIRE COUNTY TOWN BILL [H.L.].

House in Committee (according to order). Bill reported without amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^a on Thursday next.

ROYAL DECLARATION AGAINST ROMAN CATHOLICISM.

LORD HERRIES: My Lords, in rising to move the motion standing in my name I wish to say, in the first place, that considerable dissatisfaction, to make use of a mild term, has been aroused in the minds of the Roman Catholic subjects of His Majesty by the words used in the Declaration from the Throne which His Majesty was bound by statute to make on the occasion of his first opening Parliament. I wish to dissociate at once His Majesty the King from any responsibility for those words. I could not but admire the tact which His Majesty showed in the manner in which he read the Declaration, the low tone being evidently intended to make the words as little as possible offensive to ears of the Roman Catholics who were present on that occasion. At the same time, I must say this: that the Declaration itself, drawn up as it was two centuries ago, is not the sort of Declaration which might be expected from the King of Great Britain, Ireland, and the Colonies, wherein there are at least twelve millions of Roman Catholic subjects. My noble friend Lord Braye has, I believe, introduced into the House a Bill with the object of abolishing this Declaration; and, if this Declaration used by the King on the opening of Parliament could be swept away in that manner, I should be only too glad to welcome such a Bill; but it appears to me that we are more likely to arrive at the desired end by a Committee of both Houses, composed of the leading members of both political parties, who would meet together and devise some means by which the Declaration in its present offensive form could be abolished, or at least so modified as to meet the objections which we, the Roman Catholic subjects of His Majesty, feel to it.

I regret very much indeed the absence of my noble friend Lord Kimberley, not only for the cause which we all deplore, but also because we are always glad to see him in his place as Leader of the Opposition, in which capacity he shows so much tact, ability, and good feeling. The noble Earl many years ago had charge of a Bill for the abolition of such a Declaration by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and I should like to quote a few words from his speech. On that occasion Lord Kimberley said—

> "He had himself been called upon to make that Declaration before the Irish Privy Council in the presence of a large number of

persons of the Roman Catholic faith, and he must say he had never in his life made a Declaration with more pain than when he was required, before men holding high office and for whom he had the highest respect, to declare the tenets of their religion to be superstitious and idolatrous."

If that was the effect of the Declaration on one who was at that time Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, how much stronger must have been the feelings of His Majesty the King when he knew that what he was saying in that Declaration was attacking the tenets not only of a few friends around him, but of twelve millions of his most loyal subjects? I feel confident that it was with great pain that His Majesty made the Declaration. This Declaration was not framed in order to be taken by the King of this realm. It was framed at a time when Titus Oates was at the zenith of his power, when by a series of perjuries, which are unexampled in history, he had induced the whole country to believe that there was a plot among the Roman Catholics to upset the religion of the country, and when numbers believed that when James II. became King the country was to be made Roman Catholic, and the whole of the Protestants of the country were to be burned. This is history, and I ask your Lordships whether, at the time Titus Oates was publishing these perjuries, the country was in a proper state of mind to impose a Declaration of this sort. This Declaration—which is known to your Lordships, and which I will not defile my lips by reading—was made with the object of driving Roman Catholics out of the House of Peers and out of the House of Commons, and it was obligatory upon them from 1678 until the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829. I think we may judge of the state of mind of the people who framed that Declaration when we remember that it was made obligatory, not only if the King was of age and was therefore able to know for himself what was right and what was wrong, but should the King succeed as a minor, he was obliged to take it at the age of twelve years. That is to say, a little boy, or, in the case of a Queen, a little girl, might be brought—and this is even within the range of possibility now—to the Throne, and be compelled to take the Oath that transubstantiation was not to be believed in. How on earth could the child know what was the meaning of transubstantiation? I dare say that it is not known to all of your Lordships. How, therefore, would a boy or girl be able to take an oath contradicting a doctrine of that sort? For 150 years this Oath was the means of keeping every Roman Catholic out of the House of Peers and the House of Commons. Does that not show that no question of dispensing by the Pope, no question of mental reservation was sufficient to enable them to sit in this or the other House? I could point to a number of Roman Catholics who were put to death who could have had their fortunes and their lives saved by taking this Oath. I think, therefore, that this Declaration which is put into the mouth of the Sovereign, by which he is made to insinuate that Roman Catholics in taking oaths are capable of mental reservation, is an insult to Roman Catholics.

I quite agree that the fundamental laws of the country cannot be lightly changed, and it is for that reason, perhaps more than any other, that I thought, before any alteration was made, there should be a Joint Committee of both Houses, who should carefully consider the words of the Declaration. We must remember that there is a great distinction between these fundamental laws. Any law that affects the succession must be unalterable. But with regard to the other provisions in the Bill of Rights and the Act of Settlement, that is not necessarily so, and it has never been considered so. In fact, some of the provisions of the Act of Settlement were repealed within a few years of their first being passed. I allude, in the first instance, to the clause by which the Sovereign of this country was not allowed to leave it without the permission of Parliament. As we may imagine, that could not be allowed to remain long, and the clause was repealed during the reign of George I., who naturally wished to visit his kingdom of Hanover. There was another clause by which members of the Privy Council were obliged to give in writing their opinions on matters that referred to them. That was repealed. I mention these to show that minor provisions of the Bill of Rights and the Act of Settlement have been altered. It is a principle of our Constitution that we should not be governed by our ancestors, but should govern ourselves, and we are quite prepared to do so. The Empire was very different in the days of William and Mary from what it is to-day. In those days we had not the colonies that we possess now, and we had not Canada, which contains 43 per cent. of Roman Catholics. When we are so dependent on our colonies, when we have had such an outburst of loyalty from all parts of our colonies, is it right that this Declaration, which affects so many of our colonies, should remain in its present form?

Is it necessary for the existence of the Church of England in this country that a Declaration in these words must be made? The Protestant succession to the Throne and the position of the Church of England are, I contend, sufficiently safeguarded by the Bill of Rights. I am aware that the Church of England is the Church of this country, and it is quite right that those who belong to the Church of England should retain the King as a member of that Church. I do not wish to do anything to weaken the hold of the Church of England on the King, but surely the Protestant succession and the position of the Church of England as the Church of this realm can be secured without insulting the conscience of Roman Catholics and introducing words into the Declaration made by the King which attack the most cherished convictions of his Roman Catholic subjects. I suggest that there is a way out of the difficulty, and for that reason I ask your Lordships to agree to the appointment of this Committee to consider the subject. As regards the constitution of the Committee, I see no reason why Roman Catholics should be represented upon it. Our purpose is not to prevent members of the Church of England from obtaining guarantees that the King shall remain a member of the Church of England, but that the offensive words should be removed, and I trust entirely to the impartiality and good feeling of your Lordships to ensure that result. I believe that in the other House it was promised that Roman Catholics should be on the Committee. Of course, we have nothing to do here with what takes place in the other House. I am only speaking as to what I think would be the best plan to pursue with regard to the constitution of the Committee as fixed by your Lordships. I feel sure that if you will agree to this motion it will be the means of satisfying the consciences of your Roman Catholic fellow-subjects, and I am confident that it will not be in any way injurious to the Church of England. If you look to the history of the country during the last century you will see that there has been opposition to every favour which has been granted to Roman Catholics. I would ask, Have there been any bad results from the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829, or from the relaxation of the rule which prevented Roman Catholics from being officers in the Army and the Navy, and which prevented them from occupying the chief offices of the Crown? I submit that there have been no dangerous results, and I ask your Lordships to agree to this Committee, the result of which will, I hope, be to remove those expressions from the Declaration which we consider are not only of no advantage, but are most offensive to the Roman Catholic subjects of His Majesty.

Moved to resolve, "That it is desirable that a Joint Committee of both Houses be appointed to consider and report upon the Declaration which the Sovereign is by Statute compelled to make upon oath after his accession to the Throne."—(*The Lord Herries.*)

LORD BRAYE: I regret that when a fortnight ago I brought this subject before the House the noble Marquess the Prime Minister gave a very discouraging answer. A few days after we were informed that the House of Representatives of Canada had passed, by an overwhelming majority, a resolution to the effect that this Declaration was offensive. In the meantime I ventured to introduce a Bill into your Lordships' House directly dealing with the subject, and it was read a first time. The Bill is a very short one, but it aims at abolishing altogether the objectionable words in this Declaration. At the present moment I do not wish to press the Bill, but at the same time I am unwilling to withdraw it altogether. Therefore I will leave it on the Table of the House and watch the result of the Committee which, I understand, will be granted. I must say that I would have preferred to have an expression of the House directly upon the Bill, as I fail to see the necessity of referring the matter to a Committee. If, however, the result is the same I shall be quite content, and I am sure the appointment of the Committee will be welcomed by all Catholics in the Empire. This statute is polemical. This is not the place to enter into acute theological questions. Theological difficulties and controversies enter, as we know, into political questions, but since the principle of the Revolution has overspread the whole of Europe the tendency is that theological questions should be withdrawn into the sphere of churches and theological assemblies. Therefore I refrain from entering into the subject-matter of the Declaration. But I would mention that the doctrine of transubstantiation and the honour paid to the Mother of God are the two test doctrines which have divided Europe for more than three hundred years. This Committee will probably not report until July, and it is quite possible, although I sincerely trust such will not be the case, that the present Sovereign may die in the meantime. I therefore hope the Committee will expedite their labours and come to a conclusion as soon as possible, as otherwise Parliament could not prevent this Declaration being taken again. I will now call attention, in a very few words, to the Bill which I ventured to lay——

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: Order, order

LORD BRAYE: If I am out of order I will not refer to the Bill I introduced the other day. I would only say that it does not deal with the Coronation Oath, but only with the abolition and cancelling of the specific Oath. This is a free country, and if the King disbelieves in the Roman Catholic religion he is at liberty to declare his disbelief.

*THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH—who had given notice to ask (1) the Lord Privy Seal whether he will lay upon the Table of the House the terms of the proposed reference to a Committee of the language of the Declaration made by the King according to the Constitution on the occasion of his opening his first Parliament; (2) is the language of the Coronation Oath also referred to a Committee; (3) what is to be the constitution of the Committee?—said: My Lords, perhaps I may, for the convenience of your Lordships, say what I have to say now, instead of putting to the noble Marquess the question standing in my name, which was placed on the Paper before the motion of Lord Herries was handed in. The speech of my noble friend Lord Herries has answered two of the points of my question, and it is now quite clear that the Coronation Oath is not to be referred to this Committee; and as to the constitution of the Committee, I have no doubt we shall in due course know that from the noble Marquess. My only reason in rising to address the House is to draw a distinction which I think has been rather lost sight of by the two noble Lords who have spoken. I agree entirely with those noble Lords that the words of the statutory Declaration which refer to the Sacrifice of the Mass in the Roman Church as "idolatrous and superstitious" are most offensive, and naturally offensive, to Roman Catholics, and I think they are most unnecessary; still, I hope your Lordships will bear in mind what the noble Marquess himself, I am sure, is fully conscious of, that you cannot deal with a question of this kind, touching questions of religion and religious controversy, without incurring the very serious danger of arousing a great deal of religious excitement; while the language referred to is deserving of condemnation as applied to Roman Catholics, it is felt by a large number of people to be important that His Majesty should state that he himself does not believe in transubstantiation, because there is a large school of thought not within the pale of the Roman Catholic Church, but within the pale of the English Church itself, which is in favour of that doctrine. I should be the last person to wish that any words should remain in the Declaration which could be naturally and fairly interpreted and accepted by Roman Catholics as an insult to their religion. I hope, therefore, that the terms of reference, which the noble Marquess will no doubt lay upon the Table, will be perfectly clear, as I cannot imagine anything more likely to cause uneasiness and distrust in the country unless the exact points which the Committee have to consider are plainly set out.

*LORD KINNAIRD: My Lords, this question is not quite so simple as it has been made to appear. There are a certain number of His Majesty's subjects who feel strongly that alterations are not desirable in this direction. They do not want for one moment to interfere with individual liberty, but there are, they say, certain possible dangers which may be incurred if the Book of Common Prayer is tampered with. The Thirty-nine Articles include a good many strong statements as to the Mass and other Roman Catholic doctrines. There are others who feel that the liberty given to Roman Catholics in this kingdom ought to be reciprocated by Roman Catholic countries. The noble Marquess knows cases in which such intolerance prevails in other countries that it is difficult to protect Protestants, who are constantly molested and have their property interfered with. Those who are in authority in Rome and elsewhere do not give the same liberty with regard to holding property and other matters as is given in Great Britain. We do not call the Reformation a revolution, as the noble lord called it: we prefer to call it a reformation. We believe that it is not quite right to say that all religions equally bring liberty and progress, and we believe that our national progress has had something to do with the liberty of conscience which we hold so dear. With regard to the question of strong language, those of your Lordships who take the trouble to read the daily newspapers will have seen that strong language is not used by one side alone. We had some strong language lately from Cardinal Vaughan in a pastoral in which he asked his co-religionists to use their political influence in a certain direction, and they have done so to some purpose. We were told that this question was not going to be opened, and that the country was not to be disturbed by these discussions. Many people, therefore, regarded with dismay the surrender in the House of Commons and the circumstances under which this Committee was promised, especially as in this House we had had an assurance that we would have a quiet summer without these controversial matters with reference to the King's Declaration being raised.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: Nothing of the kind.

*LORD KINNAIRD: We hoped that we should not be disturbed by discussions on this question. We believe that there are principles involved in the proposed alteration which are very far-reaching and important. There are many who feel strongly on the other side with reference to what is now being agitated in this House and elsewhere.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: My Lords, this debate has wandered somewhat widely from the point, and I do not intend to follow its erratic course. Many historical and theological questions have been dealt with from various points of view, but it does not seem to me necessary that we should at present examine them. In the same way I do not propose to go into the question how far there is an exhibition of intolerance abroad, and whether there are any proceedings which from that point of view we might condemn. I think I heard a certain pastoral of Cardinal Vaughan referred to in terms of severe condemnation. I have not seen the pastoral and I do not know what it contains, but I am certain that any question with regard to it does not arise upon the subject which we have under our discussion now, for nobody has ever proposed that now or at any later period the Sovereign of this realm should be compelled to recite the pastorals of Cardinal Vaughan.

I confess that until I heard the speech of the noble Lord who has just sat down I thought that upon the substance and essence of this matter there was very little difference of opinion. Until the contrary is proved, I shall assume that, with quite infinitesimal exceptions, we all of us regret very much that language of such indecent violence has ever been placed by statute in an oath which is required to be taken by the Sovereign of the realm. It is a matter of deep regret.

But it does not follow that the damage that is done can be removed simply by repealing the enactment. You never can retrace your steps at so little cost as that. From what we have heard to-night and what we have heard elsewhere we know very well that if this House did—I do not say it will not do so—come to a decision to modify or repeal the Act in question there would be a great many people, perfectly sincere, though not very wise, who would say that you were giving some support to the doctrine of transubstantiation. Therefore it behoves us to move cautiously in this matter. I entirely repudiate the idea, however, that I have ever held out any assurance that the matter should not be meddled with. I only pointed out the great difficulties that attended it, and, in view of the material obstacles to legislation on difficult questions which exist elsewhere, I felt myself unable to hold out any confident hope that we would be able to deal with the question in the present session. I do not desire now to hold different language. The future will reveal to us what it is has to bring.

At present the difficulties are still very great; but certainly the most effective manner of dealing with those difficulties is to inquire into them; and, therefore, when it was intimated on the part of Lord Herries that he wished to ask for the reference of this question to a Committee, I assented at once. I thought a Committee would be a very suitable means of examining into it. But in doing so, I do not bind myself to accept the terms of the motion of the noble Lord, because I think that the motion as it stands now would be exposed to some of the misunderstanding that I have already pointed to. There is no doubt that this Declaration has been imposed on the Sovereign for the purpose of securing that arrangement which for brevity I shall call the Protestant succession. That is the object of the Oath. If we remove the Oath and do nothing further, I think there will be a very large number of people who will think you have not treated the matter as sufficiently important, and have not paid sufficient regard to the dominant considerations which for centuries have led the nation to cherish the Protestant succession. That is a difficulty which, of course, is inherent, and by the mere fact of retracing your steps you are always believed to be doing and intending to do something further than the mere negative of the course you took before. Therefore if the noble Lord proposes the motion in this form I shall be compelled reluctantly to oppose it; but if he would be willing to allow me to add a clause of this kind—or, if he does not like to commit himself to language which might not be agreeable to him, would allow the Government to move it with the addition which I am about to propose—there would be very little difficulty in setting on foot the investigation he desires.

The words I should like to add are these—

> "And whether the language can be modified advantageously without diminishing its efficacy as a security for the maintenance of the Protestant succession."

I am rather disposed to agree with the noble Lord, without being in any way bigoted, that it would be better if the Roman Catholic Peers stood aside from the Committee and allowed their fellow Peers to judge in this matter, as I think they would be somewhat embarrassed in dealing with it. I know that if we do this we shall have to confront the somewhat anomalous arrangement that the Roman Catholic members of the Lower House might be members of the Committee. I hope the Roman Catholic members of the Lower House may not be too sensitive, or they may think it implied that we thought their consciences less susceptible than those of the Roman Catholic members of this House. However, that is for them to decide. I think the Joint Committee should be an ordinary one, composed of five members from each House. With respect to the Coronation Oath, I should like to have an opportunity of examining it—I have not its terms in my mind—before deciding whether it should be included in the reference; but I do not see any reason in the nature of things why the Coronation Oath should not be dealt with by this Committee. If the noble Lord leaves it to the Government, I shall move it on Thursday, and at the same time put down the names of the Peers we should propose to contribute to the Joint Committee.

LORD HERRIES: I have been appealed to by the noble Marquess, who appears to be ready to accept the motion on condition that the words which he has read to your Lordships are added. I thought that in proposing the motion I had made it as wide as possible, and I presumed that the Committee would see that those guarantees which the noble Marquess seems to think necessary were carried out. But as the noble Marquess prefers that in the reference to the Committee these words should be added in order to make that quite certain, I have no objection to their being added, although I do not propose them myself.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: Will the noble Lord withdraw his motion now, and allow me to move it in its amended form on Thursday?

LORD HERRIES: Yes. I beg to withdraw my motion.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: On Thursday next I shall move, "That a Joint Committee of both Houses be appointed to consider the Declaration required of the Sovereign on his accession by the Bill of Rights, and to report whether its language can be modified advantageously without diminishing its efficiency as a security for the maintenance of the Protestant succession."

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: Would that embrace the Coronation Oath?

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: Subject to examination of its terms, I do not think that the motion as amended would take in the Coronation Oath; that would have to be a separate reference.

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

MILITARY INSTRUCTION FOR OFFICERS.

*THE DUKE OF BEDFORD: My Lords, I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for War if, in future, it would be possible to establish the rule that commissions for cavalry and infantry in the Regular Army should only be granted to candidates who have served for four years in a Militia regiment, and who have reached a certain standard of efficiency in specified courses of military instruction. I do not wish to detain your Lordships by a lengthy programme for the education of young officers, but to make my meaning clear I must mention the outline of the plan, the possibility of which is the subject of my question. I suggest, then, that commissions in the cavalry and infantry of the Regular Army should be given only to those candidates who have served for a period of four years in the Militia, the limit of age being from seventeen to twenty-two. Four months of each year would be spent with the Militia battalion; that is, three months preliminary drill and one month training. The remaining eight months, with some deduction for leave, would be available for courses of military instruction, comprising the School of Musketry at Hythe and use of machine guns; a garrison class very similar to the present course at Sandhurst; signalling; elementary field engineering, similar to a course which used to be, and, I think, still is, conducted at Chatham; the principles of sanitary science especially applicable to the dangers arising from large numbers of men crowded for a considerable period on a small area; instruction in Army transport duties and in the care and management of horses, to be learnt by actual work in the stables, and proficiency tested by the condition of the horses trained by the pupils themselves. It is very possible, as your Lordships are aware, to be a brilliant horseman but an utterly useless horse-keeper.

I would add one more subject, and that a most important one. A regimental officer's duty is to instruct his men. A staff officer's duty is to instruct officers. Yet the art of imparting instruction to others, than which no more difficult art exists, is not a recognised branch of study in the Army. Your Lordships, no doubt, remember that in those days, when you contended with examinations, one man could teach in a few weeks what another could not teach in eternity. Ignorance of the art of teaching is by no means confined to regimental officers. It is very conspicuous amongst those exalted heroes who dwell completely in the clouds on that military Olympus of the Army—the staff. All your Lordships who have been connected with the Service will recal countless field days conducted by brilliant staff officers, which for the purposes of instruction to regiments and battalions and officers were the sorriest farces imaginable. The distinguished staff officer and the learned scholar are alike useless as instructors if they scorn to learn how to teach. The entrance examination to the Militia for Army candidates should be purely literary and qualifying, to ascertain if the candidates come up to a good standard of general capacity. The final examination at the end of the four years must be competitive, assuming that there are more candidates than vacant commissions; but with the details of these examinations I need not trouble your Lordships. During the four years, sixteen months would be given to regimental duty and thirty-two months to courses of military instruction.

The advantages which I claim for my proposed plan are as follows:—First, the problem of finding subalterns for the Militia is immediately solved. The Secretary of State for War has announced that by a re-arrangement of bounties, by a stamp of his foot and a stroke of his pen and three copper pennies a day, 50,000 men are to be straightway added to the Militia. He does not mention the further magical means by which officers are to be produced. Secondly, Army candidates are, at present, useless as company officers whilst in the Militia, because they have not yet learned the A B C of their duties. I would ensure the four years Army candidate being during the last three years an increasingly useful company officer in the Militia by removing him from that service if he showed that the reverse was the case. Thirdly, officers retiring from the Army, after a preliminary four years in the Militia, are likely to return to the Militia battalions in which they have served, and in which they have friends. The return of officers from the Army to the Militia is most desirable. A last advantage is this. I expect, my Lords, that nearly every Militia commanding officer has had the experience of having his battalion inspected by some distinguished soldier, whose remarks reveal an absolute ignorance of the peculiarities of the force which he is called upon to inspect. If every officer passed through the Militia nto the Army Army officers would perforce become much better acquainted with the Militia than they are now, and the Militia and the Line would be more closely welded than at present.

The advantage which the Army would derive from my plan is the disappearance of the school-boy officer. When officers join the Line under the conditions I suggest, they will have done all their elementary schooling, and be available for continuous regimental duty. At present, young officers, during the first six or seven years of their service, have to be sent away continually from their regiments to go through some of those courses which I propose they should thoroughly accomplish before joining the Army. Taking young officers away from their regiments is most undesirable, and throws extra duty upon those officers left with the regiment. I well remember, not so very long ago, and my noble friend the Under Secretary of State for War will have the same recollection, that officers were supposed to go to Hythe and other classes of instruction out of their leave, in order to avoid throwing extra garrison duty on officers remaining with the battalion. The disadvantage which I see for the public service is on the score of expense. It will be necessary to give subalterns' pay to all Army candidates all the year round. But a good and useful military training will be given to a very much larger number of young men than is at present the case, and this military training will be very useful in times of emergency such as we have for the last year and a half experienced.

I foresee, my Lords, great opposition to the scheme I suggest from many quarters. I have not myself had the advantages of a Sandhurst education, but I know that Sandhurst is a most sacred institution in the eyes of the War Office, and that changes such as I suggest would be strenuously opposed for the sake of preserving Sandhurst as it is. Public schoolmasters would probably be opposed to my plan, for it does away with the Army classes at public schools. I daresay that Army tutors and crammers will not approve of it. Then parents of unsuccessful candidates will ask, "What are we to do with our sons when they are returned to us at twenty-two years of age, having failed to get into the Army?" My Lords, there is but one answer to all such objections, and it is, I think, an amply sufficient one. The Army exists for the defence of the country. It does not exist for the benefit of Sandhurst professors, public school pedagogues, or even prolific parents. If the particular interests of particular classes are to come first, the interests of the Army must come second and suffer accordingly.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Lord RAGLAN): My Lords, although the noble Duke's question was a very small one on paper, his speech embraced a variety of subjects, for he alluded to everything from the first appointment of officers to the final inspection of their battalions. I am not in a position to give a thorough description of all the methods which might be adopted for the first appointment of officers to commissions, whether candidates for the Militia or otherwise. The whole question, as the noble Duke is aware, is a very difficult and a very complicated one, and requires most careful consideration, which we propose as soon as possible to give to it. The suggestion that every officer should serve for four years in a Militia battalion, and the other suggestions of the noble Duke, would be very startling changes in the present system, and if they were adopted officers would either join the Army at an unduly late age, or else would leave their school at an unduly early age. As a general rule neither of these courses would be a good one. I can assure the noble Duke that at this moment in the War Office there is a tendency to look with greater intelligence on the claims of Militia officers than perhaps was the case in the past, and with that tendency I most cordially sympathise.

LORD MONKSWELL: The noble Duke seems to think it would be a capital thing to do away with the Army classes in public schools. I have only risen to say that in my opinion to do that would be a very retrograde step indeed. Those classes have done a great amount of good work in the past, and I should be very sorry to see them abolished.

PRESERVATION OF ANCIENT INDIAN MONUMENTS.

*LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY: My Lords, I wish to ask the Under Secretary of State for India who it was that sanctioned the vandalism at Bijapur, described by Lord Stanmore on page 204 of the *Imperial and Colonial Magazine* of December:—

> "I hear that this fine monument has now (1895) been turned into a house for the deputy engineer, cut up and ruined by lath and plaster partitions and ceilings, divided by floors, and its arabesques defaced by wall papers. The oratory is a lady's bedroom, and its delicately-carved mihrab, with a door fitted to it, is converted into a cupboard for hanging up dresses."

I am glad that the first occasion of my making the acquaintance of the noble Lord the Under Secretary for India should be through the medium of a question which is of an entirely non-contentious character. I say non-contentious because it is well known that the Viceroy has done all in his power to discourage the destruction of ancient monuments; and when I gave the question in I was assured of the sympathy of a high official in the India Office. The monument to which I refer, and which has been almost destroyed, was that of an ancient historical tomb near Bijapur. It has not only been the subject of vandalism, but also of desecration, for this fine monument has been turned into a house for the deputy engineer, and the oratory into a lady's bedroom. It is a misfortune that this article was not published sooner, so that the attention of the India Government could have been drawn to what was going on. The article was written in 1873, but only published this year. In the concluding words of the article Lord Stanmore says:—

> "They are terrible vandals, too, are some of these officials. I was driving with a high functionary at Ahmedabad and complimented him on the excellence of the roads where there was so little road metal. 'Yes,' he said, 'there are plenty of tombs and temples here. I do not know what we shall do when they are used up.'"

Before I sit down, I would venture to say that I read with much satisfaction the able and candid reply of the noble Earl the Under Secretary for India to the captious remarks that were made on his appointment.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (The Earl of HARDWICKE): My Lords, the question which the noble Lord has placed on the Paper is based upon an extract taken from an article written by Lord Stanmore in 1873. Lord Stanmore, in that article, refers to a visit he paid to Bijapur, and to the night he spent in a certain mausoleum. He published this article in December last, and, I presume, desiring to be accurate, he put a foot-note at the bottom of the page in which these words occur: "I hear that this fine monument," etc. The noble Lord, I understand, has no further evidence that there has been any act of vandalism committed than the statement of Lord Stanmore that he heard that this had happened. It is possibly the case that a deputy engineer lives in this particular tomb, but I do not know whether this is so or not. In Bijapur there are hundreds and hundreds of tombs, and if the Indian Government had to preserve every tomb that exists in Bijapur it is very questionable whether the resources of India would be equal to the task. In 1872 the India Government decided to make Bijapur a civil station. They have since that time had an archæological examination made of all the mausolea and tombs, and they decided in 1890 that forty-four should be maintained in good repair, and that a further forty-six should be saved from decay. So far as the other tombs are concerned, I think it is more than probable that various inhabitants of the town are using them as living-houses. I do not think that the particular tomb to which the noble Lord has referred—namely, Khawas Khan—can be a very important one, because it does not occur in either of the two lists that the Indian Government have had made of the tombs that they mean to maintain in repair; but it is quite possible that Lord Stanmore may have been thinking of what is known as the mosque of Khawas Khan. If that is the case, I am happy to tell the noble Lord that this is on the list to be maintained in good repair, and that the Indian Government are paying every attention to the matter. I am sorry I have not been able to give the noble Lord more information. The India Office communicated with India when the question was first put down, and the only reply we have had has been a telegram to the effect that every inquiry has been made, and that full particulars will be received by the India Office, regarding the rooms referred to in the question on the Paper, in the course of next month. If the noble Lord wants further information, I shall be pleased to give it to him later.

The Earl of Hardwicke.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR'S PATRONAGE—CASE OF REV. A. N. VOWLER.

THE EARL OF MOUNT EDGCUMBE asked the Lord Chancellor if his attention had been directed to a letter in the *Westminster Gazette* of 15th March, from a clergyman (the Rev. A. N. Vowler), stating that after he had been offered a benefice, and paid certain fees, the offer had been cancelled.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (The Earl of HALSBURY): My Lords, it is perfectly true that, by reason of certain recommendations which I thought I had a right to rely on, I offered this small benefice in Devonshire to the reverend gentleman whose name has been mentioned. For reasons which, I am sure, your Lordships will appreciate, I have thought it right to make it a rule that every clergyman to whom I offered preferment should undertake to render proper canonical obedience to his Bishop. This was the only condition I proposed to this reverend gentleman. He then said he had a conscientious objection. He had already mentioned to my secretary that he hesitated to give any such pledge. I thought it right that he should have an opportunity of seeing me himself, and he then explained that his objection was founded on the declaration he had signed against simony. When that objection was made to me I confess I had not the least idea of what it meant, and I have not at this moment. I have not the faintest conception of how a promise to render canonical obedience to the diocesan can by any conceivable perversion of the imagination be regarded as having anything to do with simony. I wish that when the reverend gentleman wrote to the newspapers he had thought right to add that the fees had been returned to him, as one of the inferences to be drawn from his communication is that fees had been exacted from him and not returned. Whatever fees there are, my right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer is interested in, and not any officer of mine. The fees were not in one sense exacted at all, because his own cheque was sent back to him exactly as it was received. I cannot imagine how any human intellect could extract out of the declaration against simony any such conscientious objection; but it may save trouble to those who think it right to apply to me for such ecclesiastical patronage as it is my duty to distribute, if I point out that I shall always insist upon that condition every time I offer ecclesiastical preferment. It does not appear to me to have anything to do with the law of simony, and I should have doubted whether anyone of ordinary education could think so. It is enough to say that if this reverend gentleman has a conscience in one direction, I have a conscience in another, and my conscience will not allow me to confer a benefice on a person who is not prepared to obey the laws of the Church.

THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER: I should like to point out, in view of what the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack has said, that if this amounts to simony, then every clergyman of the Church of England is guilty of simony, for no clergyman can be instituted to any benefice without making the promise referred to.

House adjourned at five minutes past Six of the clock till Thursday next, half-past Ten of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 19*th March*, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

BRITISH WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC AND MANUFACTURING COMPANY BILL.

Order [25th February], That the Bill be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, read, and discharged.

Bill withdrawn.

STANDING ORDERS.

Resolutions reported from the Committee:—

1. "That, in the case of the London County Council (Tramways and Street Widenings) Petition, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with: That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, provided that the powers to construct Tramways Nos. 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 8A, 8B, 8C, 9, 10, 10A, 11, 11A, and 11B be struck out of the Bill: That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."

2. "That, in the case of the Brompton and Piccadilly Circus Railway Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with: That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, provided that Railways Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 be struck out of the Bill: That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."

3. "That, in the case of the Chester Corporation Tramways Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with: That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, provided that Tramways Nos. 1, 2, and 3, and so much of Tramway No. 6 as lies beyond the City boundary, be struck out of the Bill: That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."

4. "That, in the case of the South Lancashire Tramways Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with: That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, provided that the powers to construct Tramways Nos. 7 and 8 be struck out of the Bill: That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."

5. "That, in the case of the Wigan Corporation Tramways Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with: That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, provided that Tramway No. 2 be struck out of the Bill: That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."

6. "That, in the case of the Thames Piers and River Service Bill, Petition of the 'Watermen and Lightermen of the

River Thames' for dispensing with Standing Order 129 in the case of their Petition against the Bill, the said Standing Order ought to be dispensed with."

7. "That, in the case of the Barry Railway Company, Petition for leave to deposit a Petition for Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with: That the parties be permitted to deposit their Petition for a Bill."

Resolutions agreed to.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (TRAMWAYS AND STREET WIDENINGS).

Report [this day] from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. John Burns and Mr. Lough.

SELECTION.

Mr. HALSEY reported from the Committee of Selection, That they had selected Mr. Baird to be a member of the Parliamentary Panel of Members of this House to act as Commissioners in pursuance of the provisions of the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, in the place of Sir Charles Dalrymple.

Report to lie upon the Table.

PETITIONS.

BEER BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Leighton; Liverpool; and Coates; to lie upon the Table.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Scarborough; Barnsley; and National Union of Teachers; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING (SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS).

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Warbleton; and Midhurst; to lie upon the Table.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL VETO (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Duniper Green, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.

Petitions for extension to women, from Manchester; Birmingham and other places; and Women Workers in the Cotton Factories of Lancashire; to lie upon the Table.

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1896.

Petition from Isle of Wight, against alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Erith; and Thornhill; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Redhill; and Guildford; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Sheffield (forty-one); East Renfrewshire (two); Mossley; Bainbridge; North Shields; Bampton; Birmingham (eleven); Handsworth; Inverness (eleven); Sparkhill; Droylsden; Tiverton; Goole; South London; Plymouth; (three); Kingswood; Tottenham; Redditch; Edinburgh (eleven); Burslem; London (four); Glasgow (twelve); Chorley; Upper Holloway; Frant; Manchester (two); Liverpool (eighteen); Rotherham; Knighton; Motherwell (three); Eastbourne; Ealing Dean; Margate; Shrewsbury; West Kensington; Bloomsbury; Walworth (two); Ticehurst; Kennington (two); Brixton Hill; Chernside West; Heaton Mersey; York; Leeds (thirteen); Tiverton-on-Avon; Camberwell (three); Peckham (two); Stratford; West Ham; Ashurst; Brighton; Chailey (two); North Tawton (two); Torry; Birkenhead (three); Lewes (two); Withington (three); Clapham (three); Elgin; Bishops Stortford (three); Leytonstone (twelve); Forest Gate; Bath; Harrow Green; Pollokshaws; Winchester; Bristol (seven); Llandyssiliogogo (two); Wheatley Hill (two); Cilfynydd; Penzance;

Cardigan; Littlehampton; Farnham; Ecclesall; Renton; Salisbury; Falkirk (two); Clynder Rosneath; Newquay; Wylye; St. Ives (four); Woodhouse Hill; Elland; Hanwell; Rastrick; Abernethy; Gloucetser (two); Lanark (two); Brockley; Lambeth; Wilmslow; Woodford Green; Muirhead; Penpont; Garston (two); Mile End; Portswood; Harrow; Penycae; Lockerbie; Lewisham; Pudsey Valley; Holm; Dalkeith; Bradford; Stockport; Dartford; Ashwater; Llanfyllin (four); Grantown-on-Spey; Old Machar; Ivybridge; Peterhead; Sparkbrook (two); North Kensington; Deptford (two); Worcester; Wilmslow; Pagham; Tranent; Bradford-on-Avon; Corsham (two); Bathgate; Kilburn; Machynlleth; Oldham; Finsbury; Bradford (Yorks.) (five); Great Lumley; Queen's Park,; Huntingdon; Croydon (eighteen); Maldon; West Croydon (three); South Norwood (two); Woodside; Thornton Heath (three); Norwood; Upper Norwood (four); Upper Caterham; Stalybridge; Maidenhead; Reach; Baildon; Lee; Market Lavington; South Petherton; Taunton (three); Dublin; Wishaw; School Board for London; Staines; Tockwith; Cambridge; Fulbourn; Leicester (fourteen); East Lambeth; Chesterton; Bridgwater (two); Sackmore; Exford; Brixton (two); Altrincham; Clitheroe; Cubitt Town; Tenby; Derby; Griffithstown; Washford; Rugby; Banff; Dunfermline; Harecourt; Bridlington; Morley (three); Watchet; Old Kent Road; Wolverhampton (two); Rushden; Waterhouses (two); Penrhyn; Durham (three); Delton; Wellington; Willenhall; Short Heath; New Brancepeth (five); Tudhoe Colliery (three); Highworth; Aberdeen (two); Seaford; Brandon Colliery; Ripley; Middleton (eight); Thirsk; Barwick-in-Elmet; Nicklefield; Uddingstone; Stockwell; Cottingley; South Nutfield; Red Hill (three); Greenock (two), Miltom; Ossett (two); Shotts; Milton; St. Just; Scarborough (three); Higham; Criccieth; Watford; Knaresborough (two); Pateley Bridge; Cilcain; Lennen Cramlington Colliery (two); North Seaton; Winchester; Chesterfield (five); Norton; Appledore (two); Penrith; Sheerness (two); Langwarthby; Newbiggin; Stainton; Wigton; (two); Keswick; Anfield; Newmains; Malvern (two); Northumberland; Great Malvern; Llanllwchaiarn (two); Gulval; Heymoor; Tregavra; Long Rock; Penzance (ten); Mousehole; Marazion; New Mill; Melksham; Ysbytty Ifan; Deiniolen; Hipperholme; Marple (two); Hyde Town; Brimington (three); Whittington Moor; Ryton-on-Tyne; Birtley; Royton (three); Oldham; Leith; Brampton; Aberchirder; Nympsfield; Stroud (three); Nailsworth; Heanor (two); Stonehouse; Charfield; Barnsley (four); Woodchester; Dolwyddelan; Radcliffe (three); Halton Lea Gate; Cromhall; Cotlessie; Newburgh; Farnworth (twelve); Llandudno (two); Kensal Town; Kirkdale; Penmaenmawr (nine); Dwygyfylchi (two); Houghton le-Spring; Tavistock; Dewsbury; Milnrow (two); Denton; Sandiacre (three); Batley; Whitefield; Long Eaton; Holsworthy (two); Frodsham; Edmonton; Dulwich; Kidderminster (three); Ilkeston (two); Partick; Haltwhistle; Darlington; Droylsden; Bolton (four); Swindon; Langley Moor (two); Brandon Colliery (three); Esh Winning; Stonehaven; Upholland; Ormskirk; and Browney Colliery; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Ayr (four); Stonehaven; Saltoun; Campbeltown (two); Govan (two); Perth (three); Harthill; Bowmore; Sanquhar; Newburgh; Wick; Edinburgh (three); Ceres; Craigneuk; Motherwell; Airdrie Kilbrandon and Kilchattan; Dalziel (two); Cupar; Rothes; Dunfermline; Forres; Strathaven; Dunbar; Carluke (two); Broughty Ferry; Douglas; Ecclefechan (two); Kirriemuir; Thornhill; Dalkeith; Peterhead; Marnoch (two); Thurso; Bathgate; Eastwood; Glasgow (three); Stornoway; Largs (two); Renton; Cromarty (three); Braemar; Kelso; Peebles (three); Saltcoats; Helensburgh; Morebattle; Fraserburgh; Stonehaven; Alloa; Rutherglen; Dalmuir; Blairgowrie; Clydebank; Dunfermline; Dennistown; Lanarkshire; Caldercruix (two); Shotts; Ardessier; Blantyre; Tain (two); Fountainbridge; Partick; and Dunoon; to lie upon the Table.

SOVEREIGN'S OATH ON ACCESSION BILL.

Petition from Inverkeithing, against; to lie upon the Table.

SUNDAY CLOSING (WALES) ACT (1881) AMENDMENT BILL.

Petition from Cilfynydd, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

VIVISECTION.

Petition from Bristol, for prohibition; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1884.

Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 14th March, 1901, declaring that William C. Hoskins, Labourer, Royal Laboratory, War Department, was appointed without a Civil Service Certificate through inadvertence on the part of the Head of his Department [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP (USE OF LEAD IN THE MANUFACTURE OF POTTERY).

Copy presented, of Reports received by the Secretary of State for the Home Department from Professor T. E. Thorpe, C.B., LL.D., F.R.S., Principal of the Government Laboratory, on the Use of Lead in the Manufacture of Pottery [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Copy presented, of Papers relating to negotiations between Commandant Louis Botha and Lord Kitchener [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE (ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND IRELAND).

Return ordered, "showing, for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1901, (1) the amount contributed by England, Scotland, and Ireland, respectively, to the Revenue collected by Imperial officers; (2) the expenditure on English, Scottish, and Irish services met out of such Revenue; and (3) the balances of Revenue contributed by England, Scotland, and Ireland, respectively, which are available for Imperial Expenditure (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 336, of Session 1900)."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

IMPERIAL REVENUE (COLLECTION AND EXPENDITURE) (GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND).

Return ordered, "relating to Imperial Revenue (Collection and Expenditure) (Great Britain and Ireland) for the year ending the 31st day of March, 1901 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 337, of Session 1900)."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL v. LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.

Return ordered, "giving the Report of the Judgment delivered in the Irish Court of Appeal on Monday the 25th day of February last, together with the Affidavits on both sides, and the Letter of the Local Government Board referred to in the said Judgment with the Reply of the County Wexford County Council thereto."—(*Sir Thomas Esmonde.*)

LEAD POISONING.

Address for "Return showing, with reference to the cases of Lead Poisoning reported during the years 1899 and 1900, in the earthenware and china industry (a) the severity of the attack, (b) the number (if any) of previous attacks, and (c) the main symptoms referable to Lead Poisoning."—(*Mr. Jesse Collings.*)

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH BOER GENERALS.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can now make a statement as to the present position of the pourparlers which it is alleged have been or are being conducted with General Botha, General De Wet, and possibly other generals, with reference to a cessation of active hostilities, as regards all or certain portions of the forces still opposing the British arms in South Africa.

The following questions also appeared on the Paper:—

MR. SCHWANN: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can now give the result of the negotiations, reported to have been established with General Botha and other generals in South Africa, with reference to the cessation of active hostilities between all or certain portions of the forces still opposing the British arms in that country.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is now in a position to give the House information as to the recent peace negotiations with the Boer generals.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): General Botha has informed Lord Kitchener by letter that he is not disposed to recommend the terms of peace, which Lord Kitchener was instructed to offer him, to the earnest consideration of his Government. He adds that his Government and his chief officers entirely agree with his views. I propose to lay the Papers connected with the negotiations on the Table to-night.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): Can the right hon. Gentleman say what were the terms offered?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The hon. Member will find them in the Papers which I propose to lay.

HOSPITALS COMMISSION—PAYMENTS TO COMMISSIONERS.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he can state the amount of salary paid respectively to members of the Hospital Commission in addition to the amount allowed for personal expenses.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): A sum of £1,250 was paid to each member of the Commission except the chairman.

MR. DALZIEL: Do we understand that he was unpaid?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes.

NEW ARMY PENSION SCHEME.

MR. SCHWANN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state when the pensions which the Government have promised and sketched the details of will be declared and paid to the widows and orphans of men who have perished in South Africa in the British ranks; and will the scheme apply to the widows and children of all men who have lost their lives in action, by accident, or in consequence of wounds or disease caused by service in the campaign.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): The date will shortly be fixed by warrant. As regards the second paragraph, the scheme will apply to the widows and children of men on the married establishment—which includes mobilised Reservists, embodied Militiamen, Volunteers and Yeomen—who since October, 1899, have been killed in action, or died of wounds or injuries received, or of disease medically certified as contracted or commencing while on active service.

WARM CLOTHING FOR RETURNING TROOPS.

MR. ORR-EWING (Ayr Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the private funds from which invalided soldiers returning home from South Africa have been supplied throughout the campaign with greatcoats and warm clothing are now exhausted, and that in consequence such soldiers are constantly returning without them; and whether he will undertake that such necessary clothing for the voyage will be supplied from Government sources.

*MR. BRODRICK: The Clothing Regulations (paragraphs 425–430) fully provide for the issue of the necessary warm clothing for invalided soldiers. Under the orders of the general officer commanding at the port of embarkation general officers commanding Cape and Natal were instructed in June last to ensure compliance with these regulations. No reports have been received of men returning without proper warm clothing.

MR. BURDETT-COUTTS (Westminster): Will the right hon. Gentleman inquire how many invalided soldiers arrived by the "Simla" last week, and by the "Bavarian" a short time before, without any greatcoats?

*MR. BRODRICK: I will certainly inquire.

PURCHASES OF ARMY HORSES IN CANADA.

*MR. GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can explain why the agents of the Government, purchasing horses for the use of the Army in South Africa, have only purchased 3,738 in Canada as against 7,901 purchased in Australia, and 26,310 from the United States; and whether the Canadian Government have drawn the attention of His Majesty's Government to this matter.

*THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): The purchase of horses in Canada was limited by the shortness of the season and the approach of the Canadian winter, and the prices of the horses and cobs were much higher than those paid for similar animals obtained in the United States and in Australia. Some correspondence has passed respecting this matter with the Agent General for Canada.

MR. MALCOLM (Suffolk, Stowmarket): Is there any chance of remount depôts being established in Canada?

*LORD STANLEY: Yes, it is hoped to establish a remount depôt in Canada. The whole subject is now under consideration.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): Does Canada contribute anything towards the cost of the war?

[No answer was given.]

MR. MACDONA (Southwark, Rotherhithe): In what way does the Canadian winter prevent the purchase of the horses?

*LORD STANLEY: We cannot purchase horses in winter and send them on a tropical passage to South Africa.

YEOMANRY TRAINING.

MR. STOCK (Liverpool, Walton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state what period of training will be required for Yeomanry regiments this year; whether the date of coming out will be left to the discretion of colonels of respective regiments; whether training under canvas will be compulsory; and whether recruiting is to be practically unlimited up to a strength of 500 men per regiment.

*LORD STANLEY: As I have already explained to the House, an Army Order will shortly be published giving the necessary information.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S FUNERAL—SCOTTISH VOLUNTEERS.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state how many Volunteers came to London from Scotland on the invitation of the War Office for the purpose of attending the ceremonies on the occasion of the Queen's funeral on 2nd February last; and will he say how much was paid for their travelling expenses, food, and accommodation.

*LORD STANLEY: The numbers of Volunteers from Scotland amounted to twenty-four officers and 800 men. It is not possible to state the figures required by the second paragraph without a detailed examination of the various accounts.

VOLUNTEER SERGEANT-MAJORS' PAY.

MR. LOWE (Birmingham, Edgbaston): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War will he explain why the sergeant-majors of consolidated battalions of Volunteers with more than six companies at headquarters receive only the same rate of pay and allowances as sergeant-majors in charge of outlying companies of administrative battalions; and whether he will consider the propriety of either granting to the former an increased rate of pay, or of granting them the same rank and pay as warrant officers sergeant-majors in the Militia.

LORD STANLEY: Volunteer corps of six companies and upwards are entitled to a regimental acting sergeant-major, who is selected from the permanent staff by the commanding officer of the corps and receives the pay of his rank and 6d. a day extra. This non-commissioned officer, whether in a consolidated or scattered battalion, is responsible for the duties of regimental sergeant-major, and his work is not confined to the particular company or companies at headquarters where he may be stationed. There is, accordingly, no reason for the differentiation of pay suggested.

MARK IV. BULLETS REJECTED.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state how many Mark IV. bullets have been broken up since the commencement of the South African campaign; and in what respect they were useless.

Lord STANLEY: The number of Mark IV. bullets broken up since the commencement of the war is about four and a half millions. Cartridges made with these bullets were, under certain conditions, found to strip in the barrel. It was therefore undesirable to make these bullets up into cartridges.

MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS AT SHOEBURYNESS.

Mr. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that no provision exists in cases of illness among officers at Shoeburyness, there being no hospital, no arrangement for nurses, and not even a single member of the Army Medical Corps; whether he is aware that this week a young officer who had served in South Africa was taken ill with double pleurisy which resulted in double pneumonia, that he was left in his own quarters, where he died, and had it not been for his parents would have had no nurse or medical appliances; that recently in consequence of an officer developing scarlet fever, the whole batch of officers in that officer's quarter had to be put under tents; and whether immediate steps will be taken to provide a suitable hospital, nurses, and appliances at Shoeburyness for officers when taken ill there.

Mr. BRODRICK: It has not been found possible to provide accommodation for hospital wards for officers at home stations except at Netley and Woolwich, and in special cases at Aldershot. Officers, except when suffering from wounds or illness from active service, are only admitted to these hospitals on the recommendation of a medical board. At Shoeburyness there are two medical officers. For the case of pneumonia one day and one night nurse were engaged from the beginning by the medical officer and remained to the last. As regards the case of scarlet fever some young officers residing in the same corridor were very properly removed. It does not appear a hardship that they were placed under canvas.

Mr. BARTLEY: Can the right hon. Gentleman undertake that some accommodation should be provided for these severe cases, so that an officer need not die without any attention, as this young officer did?

Mr. BRODRICK: The officer in question was attended by a proper medical officer, and by a day nurse and a night nurse, and I do not admit that in the officers' quarters proper attention is not given to officers who are ill.

SOLDIERS' PENSIONS—CASE OF PATRICK GUINAN.

Mr. REDDY (King's County, Birr): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that an application for an increase of pension was received by the Secretary, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on 26th ultimo, from Patrick Guinan, pensioner of the 55th Regiment of Foot, who had eleven years service from 1858 to 1869, of which nine years were in Africa and India; and, seeing that this man was discharged on account of debility from climatic causes, received a good conduct badge, is now in receipt of only 4d. per diem pension, and is more than sixty years of age and unable to work, whether his case will be considered with a view to an increase of his pension.

Lord STANLEY: The application was received at Chelsea and the applicant was informed that he was receiving the full amount of pension to which he was entitled under the regulations. The man was discharged as unfit for further service owing to melancholia and this disease was not due to service.

but was developed by intemperance. The case is not one for further consideration.

NAVY—BELLEVILLE BOILERS.

SIR CHRISTOPHER FURNESS (Hartlepool): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can state the number and description of ships, now in course of construction for His Majesty's Navy, for which Belleville boilers will be retained on the ground that the work is so far advanced that any alteration of type of boiler would delay the completion of the ships; can he explain why this type of boiler is to be retained when the Boiler Committee cannot recommend it as the best adapted to the requirements of His Majesty's Navy, and definitely advise that in future ships these boilers be not fitted in any case; and will he give the total number of ships fitted with Belleville boilers, with number of engineers, artificers, and stokers on board of these ships.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): The question of what ships now in course of construction and designed to receive Belleville boilers can be furnished with other types of boilers without delay is under the careful consideration of the Admiralty, but the necessary inquiries have not yet been completed. It is not proposed to retain the Belleville boiler in ships in which other boilers of a better type can be inserted without involving serious delay. The total number of ships fitted with Belleville boilers is as follows: Twenty-six vessels in commission or ready for commissioning, and forty in the hands of the makers. The seagoing complements of the former class are:—120 chief or other engineer officers, 263 artificers, 2,995 stoker ratings. The seagoing complements of the other ships under construction are:—246 chief or other engineer officers, 533 artificers, 6,400 stoker ratings.

ROYAL MARINES—PENSION REGULATIONS.

MR. REGINALD LUCAS (Portsmouth): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, in view of the fact that non-commissioned officers and men of the Army are allowed to continue serving after completing twenty-one years service, and thereby increasing their pensions, the Admiralty are prepared to extend the same privilege to the Royal Marines, by adopting the principle laid down in the Royal Warrant (Army) Article 1164, so as to place them on an equal footing with the Army in respect to pension.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The question referred to by the hon. Member is at present under the consideration of the Admiralty, and the existing Regulations are being reviewed, but no decision has yet been arrived at.

CHINA—ANGLO-RUSSIAN DISPUTE AT TIENTSIN.

MR. JOSEPH WALTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can give the House any information in regard to the reported seizure by Russia of land at Tientsin which is mortgaged to British bondholders.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): I have little to add to my answer of the 15th March on this subject,* pending a settlement of the immediate difference by the military authorities on the spot. Sentries on both sides remain in their previous positions, with strict orders not to assume the aggressive. No disturbance is anticipated.

MR. JOSEPH WALTON: May I ask whether negotiations are proceeding between the British and the Russian Governments with regard to this matter?

LORD G. HAMILTON: I must ask for notice of that question.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can give the House the correct version of the incident arising from the dispute as to the railway siding at Tientsin, and especially whether the British officer in command has received instructions from His Majesty's Government, or from His Majesty's Minister at Peking, not to resist the seizure by Russian troops of the land necessary for the railway siding.

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* See page 72.

Lord G. HAMILTON: No instructions of the character suggested have been issued.

ANGLO-GERMAN AGREEMENT AND MANCHURIA.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: On behalf of the hon. Member for North Roscommon, I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Anglo-German Agreement about China applies to Manchuria.

The UNDER SECRETARY of STATE for FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Viscount Cranborne): The first clause of the Anglo-German Agreement expresses the agreement of the two Powers to observe freedom of trade on the ports in the rivers and littoral of China wherever they can exercise influence. The second clause states that they will not make use of the present complication to obtain for themselves any territorial advantages in Chinese dominions, and will direct their policy towards maintaining undiminished the territorial condition of the Chinese Empire. This provision is without qualification.

JAPAN AND CHINA—FO-KIEN.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: On behalf of the hon. Member for North Roscommon, I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has any information to the effect that Japan has notified the Chinese Government that if the Manchurian Convention is signed Japan will insist on establishing a protectorate over the province of Fo-Kien.

*Viscount CRANBORNE: No, Sir.

CANTON AND HAN-KAU RAILWAY CONCESSION.

Mr. YERBURGH (Chester): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the concession for the construction of a railway from Canton to Han-kau, which had been obtained by an American syndicate, has been transferred by them to the Belgian syndicate which already held the concession for a railway from Peking to Hankau.

*Viscount CRANBORNE: We are informed that the concession has not been transferred, and is still owned by the American company, but that the stockholders of the company have disposed of part of their holdings to the Belgian syndicate.

ALLEGED TURKISH EXCESSES IN MACEDONIA.

Mr. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what information His Majesty's Government have as to the correctness or otherwise of the reports that Turkish soldiery have been committing excesses at the town of Uscub, in Macedonia, and the neighbourhood thereof; and what is the nearest place to this district at which a British Consul is stationed.

*Viscount CRANBORNE: According to information received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Uscub, an encounter is reported to have taken place in January last at Ishtib, which is situated about forty-five miles to the south-east of Uscub, between Turkish troops and certain Bulgarians, who had barricaded themselves in a house to evade a search for arms, which was being conducted by the Turkish authorities. One gendarme and two Bulgarians are said to have lost their lives. Fifteen Bulgarians were subsequently arrested at the same place, and have been since sent to Uscub. We have no evidence which justifies us in describing these proceedings as excesses committed by the Turkish soldiery. A British Vice-Consul is permanently stationed at Uscub.

BILBAO HARBOUR—LOSS OF THE "AVLONA."

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been called to the recent loss of the steamship "Avlona," of Glasgow, owing to the insufficient lighting of the entrance to Bilbao Harbour; and will he consider the expediency of calling the attention of the Spanish authorities to the subject.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: The answer to the first paragraph of the question is in the affirmative. The question of calling the attention of the Spanish authorities to the subject is under consideration.

LICENSING LEGISLATION.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will be able to introduce his promised measure dealing with intemperance before Easter; and whether it will apply to the whole of the United Kingdom.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): I am afraid that the answer to the first paragraph must be in the negative. As regards the second, I do not think that one Bill can deal with the whole of the United Kingdom. The Scotch and Irish licensing laws differ considerably from the English.

CHILD DRUNKENNESS IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

MR. FLOWER (Bradford, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he can state the number of children between the ages of twelve and sixteen years of age who were arrested for drunkenness in England and Wales during the years 1899 and 1900.

*MR. RITCHIE: I can only give the number of arrests which resulted in convictions—namely, in 1899, seventeen; twelve boys and five girls. The figures for 1900 are not yet complete.

MR. FLOWER: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, as representing the Secretary for Scotland, if he can state the number of children between the ages of twelve and sixteen years of age arrested for drunkenness in Scotland during the year 1900.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): I regret to say that I am informed by the Prison Commissioners for Scotland that it is not possible to give the hon. Member the information he desires without reference to the police authorities, but if he will renew his question in the course of ten days I shall undertake to let him have it.

MR. FLOWER: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state the number of children between the ages of twelve and sixteen years of age arrested for drunkenness in Ireland during the year 1900.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): There were eight children within the limits of age mentioned convicted of drunkenness in Ireland in 1900. I am not aware how many arrests were made in that period; if my hon. friend desires information on that point it will be necessary to make local inquiries throughout Ireland, and this would occupy some little time.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet): Is there any evidence as to the houses at which the children got the drink?

[No answer was returned.]

MR. EUGENE WASON (Clackmannan and Kinross): How many were boys and how many girls?

MR. WYNDHAM: I cannot say.

JUSTICES AND THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.

MR. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there is any necessity for justices of the peace, who are also Members of Parliament and have as such already taken the Oath of Allegiance to His Majesty the King, to again take this Oath at quarter sessions before acting as justices of the peace.

*MR. RITCHIE: I have already stated that I am advised that there is no necessity for magistrates to take any oath afresh in order to be able to continue to exercise their functions.

CONVICT BENNETT—LETTERS TO THE PRESS.

MR. ALLHUSEN (Hackney, Central): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to a letter from the murderer Bennett, published in an evening newspaper of 18th March; whether convicted felons are allowed to communicate with the press, either directly or indirectly; and whether he will take steps to ensure that in future no prisoner, either before trial or after conviction, shall be able to communicate with the press.

*MR. RITCHIE: Convicted prisoners are not allowed to communicate directly with the press, and such permission was in this case refused. It is impossible to prevent indirect communication.

ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE—ENROLMENT OF BOYS FROM MERCHANT SHIPS.

MR. CHARLES M'ARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can state the number of boy sailors in merchant ships now enrolled in the Royal Naval Reserve under Section 6 of the Mercantile Marine Fund Act, 1898; what amount in respect of light dues has been refunded to the owners of ships carrying boy sailors since the said Act came into force; and under what head of charge is this item brought in the Estimates.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. HANBURY, Preston, for Mr. GERALD BALFOUR): The number of boy sailors enrolled in the Royal Naval Reserve from the 1st April, 1899, to the 15th instant was 736. The amount paid to owners of ships as rebate of light dues in respect of boys carried during the year from 1st April, 1899, to 31st March, 1900, was £621 8s. 10d. Payment for the current year is not due until the 31st instant. This item is provided for in the Naval Estimates Vote 7 (Royal Naval Reserve) sub-head (a).

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE REGULATIONS AT STOWMARKET.

MR. MALCOLM: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether, having regard to the immunity from foot-and-mouth disease enjoyed by the petty sessional division of Stowmarket, he will remove the restrictions now weighing so heavily upon the farmers residing in that division.

*MR. HANBURY: An Order was made on the 16th instant, altering the boundaries of the Suffolk Foot-and-Mouth Disease Scheduled District, which will no longer comprise the petty sessional division of Stowmarket. The Order comes into operation to-morrow.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN LIGHTHOUSES AND SHORE.

MR. CHARLES M'ARTHUR: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is yet in a position to carry into effect the provision of Clause 2 (5) of the Mercantile Marine Fund Act, 1898, which requires that communications between lighthouses and the shore shall, as far as possible, be available for private messages at reasonable charges; whether the Departmental Committee appointed at the beginning of last year to consider this subject has made any report or recommendation; and whether, in the interest of passengers, sailors, shipowners, merchants, and underwriters he can hold out any hope of the establishment, in the near future, of reporting stations for passing vessels at central points on the more important trade routes such as the Fastnet, Tuskar, the Smalls, and Inistrahul.

*MR. HANBURY (for Mr. GERALD BALFOUR): My right hon. friend regrets that he is not in a position to give a definite reply to my hon. friend's question. The subject of making electrical communication with lighthouses available for private messages has presented and still presents many serious difficulties which are engaging the attention of the Departments concerned. My hon. friend may rest assured that the matter is not being lost sight of.

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY—PREFERENTIAL RATES FOR FOREIGN PRODUCE.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he will cause inquiries to be made by the Railway Department of the Board of Trade of the Great Eastern Railway Company respecting the through rates for foreign produce; and whether he will cause to be examined the rate book at Harwich which shows the charges for land carriage of foreign and native produce, and communicate to the House the results of these inquiries.

MR. HANBURY (for Mr. GERALD BALFOUR): No, Sir; my right hon. friend cannot make such an inquiry as that suggested. If persons are aggrieved by preferential rates for foreign goods they should adopt their legal remedy. The hon. Member is no doubt aware of Section 27 of the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888.

EDUCATION—APPLICATIONS FOR RECOGNITION UNDER THE HIGHER ELEMENTARY MINUTE.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether he can give the number of school departments on account of which application has been made to the Board of Education for recognition under the Higher Elementary Minute, and the number of such applications granted up to date.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir J. GORST, Cambridge University): Leaving out the application of the London School Board, which was for seventy-nine schools in block, some twenty-four applications have been received for the recognition of specific schools. Recognition has practically been given to a dozen schools, in some cases conditionally.

BOARD SCHOOLS IN STEPNEY.

MAJOR EVANS GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether, seeing that the site scheduled by the School Board in Arbour Square, Stepney, is directly opposite to the St. Thomas's Voluntary School, in which a number of places are available, he can explain why it has been decided to build a board school and destroy house property on this spot.

SIR J. GORST: So far as I am aware, it has not been decided to build a board school there.

VACANT SCHOOL PLACES IN STEPNEY.

MAJOR EVANS GORDON: I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether he can give the number of board and voluntary schools in the school areas H, L, J, and K of the Tower Hamlets, and the number of school places at present required in each of these areas.

SIR J. GORST: In Block H there are three board schools and one voluntary school, and a deficiency of 997 places; in Block L, two board schools and three voluntary schools, and a deficiency of 448 places; in Block J, two board schools and two voluntary schools, and a deficiency of 102 places; and in Block K, one board school and one voluntary school, and no deficiency of school places.

NEW CODE—TRAINING COLLEGE EXAMINATIONS.

*MR. MORRELL (Oxfordshire, Woodstock): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether, inasmuch as a first class in a training college is awarded only on the aggregate of marks obtained after examination in a very wide series of subjects, and a large number of subjects in the training college curriculum are not essential for teachers in primary elementary schools; and seeing that many students of superior quality as teachers are lost to the profession because, though well qualified in essentials for work in a primary elementary school, they have not secured sufficient marks in the non-essentials to make up a first class aggregate, necessary for good appointment, he would consider the propriety of so far modifying the new Code as to make a first class obtainable by proficiency in those subjects, and those only, which are essential to teachers in primary schools, at same time giving further certificates for proficiency in other subjects as may seem desirable.

SIR J. GORST: The Board of Education are now engaged in considering measures to encourage a variety of courses of instruction in different training colleges. Such measures would necessarily involve a corresponding variety in the scheme of examinations.

COINAGE OF CROWN PIECES.

MR. HOLLAND (Yorkshire, W.R., Rotherham): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will consider the propriety of refraining from coining five shilling pieces in the new silver coinage.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY to the TREASURY (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.): I am requested by my right hon. friend to state that, as at present advised, he does not think it advisable to discontinue the coinage of five shilling pieces.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN THE ISLAND OF MULL.

Mr. NICOL (Argyllshire): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he can explain why the Congested Districts Board of Scotland gave grants of £375 and £113 towards the construction of two roads in the Island of Mull, seeing that these roads only lead to two farms and are of no use to the general public.

Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I am informed by the Congested Districts Board that the grants to the two roads referred to by the hon. Member were given on the recommendation of the District Committee as laid before the Board by the County Council. Both these bodies had an opportunity of considering the objections which were made to one of the roads, but adhered to their recommendations. The matter was then referred for the advice of the consulting engineer, who reported favourably, considering that the roads might form a useful part eventually of an extended scheme, and, further, give facilities for the erection of fishermen's holdings. In the circumstances, the Secretary for Scotland cannot accept the hon. Member's statement that the roads in question are of no use to the general public.

KILMARNOCK SHERIFF COURT—ABSENT JURYMAN.

Mr. COCHRANE (Ayrshire, N.): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether his attention has been drawn to the case of Samuel Reid, a working mason, residing at Stevenston, Ayrshire, who was cited to attend the sheriff court at Kilmarnock on 27th July last, and failed to attend: whether he is aware that the notice was not served owing to his having been absent from home in the course of his employment, leaving his house shut up; and as he is not a proprietor, and has no property, and his name does not appear in any roll save as a tenant, whether he is eligible as a juror; and whether, under the circumstances, the Lord Advocate can see his way to remit the fine of £6 1s. 1d. imposed, as Samuel Reid has a family of nine children, is in delicate health, and is dependent upon his wages.

*Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I have made full inquiry into the matter brought to my notice by my hon. friend. I find it to be the fact that Samuel Reid's name is on the jury list, and that it had been placed there erroneously, as he is not qualified to act. But I also find that Reid was duly summoned and personally received the notice in ample time to have attended. It was his duty to attend; and, at least, it would have been proper for him to send explanations at the time of his failure to attend, which he did not do. He has not been treated unjustly. But in view of the man's circumstances as stated by my hon. friend, and of the fact that he was not qualified to act as a juror, I hope that an approach to Exchequer for the remission of the fine may be successful.

SCOTTISH CONGESTED DISTRICTS—CROFTER HOLDINGS.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he will state what balance was in hand on the 28th February last out of the money granted by Parliament for the purposes of the Congested Districts Board (Scotland); and will he say how much of the grant has been expended in the acquisition of land suitable for crofters and the extension of existing crofters' holdings.

*Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I have already informed the hon. Member that particulars such as he asks for in this question will be found in the forthcoming Annual Report of the Congested Districts Board.

HOLDINGS IN THE ISLAND OF LEWIS.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he will state the acreage of lands suitable for new holdings recently secured by the Congested Districts Board at Aignish, Gress, and Croir, Island of Lewis.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I am informed that no purchases have been as yet concluded in these districts.

MR. WEIR: Did the right hon. Gentleman say only yesterday that purchases had been made?

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: No; yesterday's question was whether efforts were being made to effect purchases. I answered that in the affirmative.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN SCOTTISH CONGESTED AREAS.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if it is the practice of the Congested Districts Board of Scotland to accept, without inquiry, the decision arrived at by the district committees in regard to outlay for the construction of roads in the congested area.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: No, Sir.

REPORT OF THE CONGESTED DISTRICTS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if arrangements will be made for the Report of the Congested Districts Board (Scotland) to be in the hands of Members before the House goes into Committee of Supply on Civil Service Estimates.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The Third Report of the Congested Districts Board for Scotland will be issued as soon as possible after the 31st instant, and I will arrange that the Secretary for Scotland Vote will not be taken until it is in the hands of Members.

MR. WEIR: Will the right hon. Gentleman use his influence with the First Lord of the Treasury that this Vote shall not be closured?

[No answer was given.]

SALARIES OF IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOL TEACHERS

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that principal teachers in Irish national schools were, before 1st April, 1900, in consequence of insufficient attendance, receiving salaries prescribed for classes lower than those to which they respectively belonged; whether it is these salaries that have been taken into account in fixing the permanent salaries of such teachers; and, if so, whether it is the intention of the Commissioners to give every such teacher the full financial benefit of his classification, should the average attendance rise to prescribed standard, or should he be appointed to another school having an average attendance up to the required standard.

*MR. WYNDHAM: Before the 1st April, 1900, some teachers, owing to insufficient attendance at the schools, were receiving salaries lower than those attaching to the classes in which they were included, and in fixing the provisional salaries of such teachers the actual payments made to them were taken into account. The question of the future payment of such teachers is engaging the consideration of the Commissioners, who are in correspondence with the Treasury on the subject.

IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOL TEACHERS' HOLIDAYS.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, in view of the fact that in the course of last year the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland received a memorial, signed by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Cloyne and by the Roman Catholic clergymen who are managers of schools, and also from other bodies of clergymen who are managers all over Ireland, respecting the curtailment of the annual vacations to national teachers, whether he can state what action has been taken by the Commissioners thereon, and whether they intend to accede to the request of men who have an interest in Irish education, and are intimately acquainted with its working.

*MR. WYNDHAM: I have referred this question to the Commissioners of National Education, and have received from them a reply as follows: Several memorials, signed by managers of National Schools with respect to the new rule as to vacations were submitted to the Board during the past year, and in view of the fact that managers seemed to misunderstand the rule, an explanatory circular was prepared by order of the Commissioners and issued at Christmas last. No further action seemed to be required.

IRISH NATIONAL EDUCATION OFFICE —VACANCIES FOR CLERKS.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state when the seven vacancies in second division clerkships in Irish National Education Office will be filled up; and whether some members of the abstracter, assistant clerks, class will be promoted to these vacancies, as they have complied with Treasury regulations by serving six years as abstracters.

*MR. WYNDHAM: A general reorganisation of different departments of the Education Office is in progress, and pending the completion of this work it is proposed that no permanent appointments be made to fill the vacancies which now exist.

IRISH POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATIONS.

MR. MURNAGHAN (Tyrone, Mid): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, considering the magnitude of the pension scheme contained in the Poor Law Superannuation (Ireland) Bill, now standing on the Order Book, he will take steps to inform himself, before the Second Reading, of the probable charge on local rates should the Bill become law, having regard to the operation of a similar pension scheme in England; and whether he will obtain an actuarial report from Mr. Finlaison, actuary of the National Debt Commissioners, or other expert as to the probable annual burden on the rates, in like manner as was done in 1890 when the Police Superannuation (Scotland) Bill was before Parliament.

*MR. WYNDHAM: I am informed that there would be considerable difficulty in ascertaining with any degree of accuracy the charge on local rates should this Bill become law; I am making further inquiry into the matter, however. In answer to the second paragraph, I am not aware of the circumstances under which Mr. Finlaison was employed, as alleged.

MR. DALY (Monaghan, S.): When will the right hon. Gentleman be in a position to give further information?

*MR. WYNDHAM: I am inquiring into the matter, and will make a further statement before the Bill is taken.

COUNTY DOWN CONSTABULARY.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, with reference to recent promotions to the position of acting sergeants in county Down, whether he will make personal inquiry into the statement that the promotions have been made on their merits; and whether he will ask for a detailed explanation of the appointment of six non-Roman Catholics to one Roman Catholic in a county where the Roman Catholic constables outnumber those of all other denominations.

MR. WYNDHAM: I have made personal inquiry and have received the assurance of the Inspector General that promotions in the constabulary in Down, as elsewhere, are strictly governed, not by considerations of religion, but of merit. I may mention that an examination of the records show that the religions of men serving in the force throughout Ireland on the 1st January last were as follows:—Head constables: Roman Catholics 170, Protestants 81; sergeants: Roman Catholics 1,334, Protestants 535; acting sergeants: Roman Catholics 305, Protestants 118; constables: Roman Catholics 6,230, Protestants 2,147.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I am much obliged to the right hon. Gentleman for the trouble he has taken. Will he kindly further ascertain why there has been only one Roman Catholic promotion as against six Protestants in this county?

MR. WYNDHAM: I imagine it was because there were six Protestants fit and only one Roman Catholic.

COMMISSIONS OF ASSIZE—EXCLUSION OF IRISH MAYORS.

MR. KENNEDY (Westmeath, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland whether, seeing that chairmen of county and district councils in Ireland are, pursuant to statute, included in the commissions of the peace under which complaints brought by their respective councils are tried at petty sessions, he will follow this statutory precedent and reconsider his decision to exclude certain mayors of county boroughs from the commissions of assize on the ground only that the councils of those boroughs may be litigants under such commissions.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): If the hon. Member will refer to my detailed answer to a question on this subject put to me by the hon. Member for East Clare on the 20th February of last year,* he will see that there is no real analogy between the cases he mentions in his question. The answer to the question now put is, therefore, in the negative.

MR. KENNEDY: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the same principle applies to both, and that the difference is only one of degree?

MR. ATKINSON: I am aware, on the contrary, that it does not apply.

SUMMARY JURISDICTION—CASE OF MR. HALPIN.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland whether the proceedings against Mr. Halpin, councillor for Clare, will be abandoned, as in the case of similar proceedings against Messrs. Lynch and M'Inerney.

MR. ATKINSON: Yes, Sir. I hope that the hon. Members opposite will give facilities to pass the Bill which is intended to assimilate the law of England and Ireland in this respect.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: When will the Bill be brought in?

MR. ATKINSON: To-day.

LAND PURCHASE IN COUNTY WEXFORD.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if, in view of the circumstance that land purchase is now stopped in county Wexford, to the inconvenience of a number of tenants who have arranged for the purchase of their holdings, he will expedite the inquiry which has been ordered to be held; and if he will state when he will be in a position to make a statement upon this subject, and also as to the intentions of the Government in regard to land purchase in Ireland generally.

MR. WYNDHAM: The answer to the first paragraph is in the affirmative. The inquiry is being pressed with all possible despatch. In reply to the second paragraph, I must refer the hon. Member to the Leader of the House.

VALUATIONS AT BANTEER, COUNTY CORK.

MR. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the case of a trader in Banteer, county Cork, the valuation of whose premises has been raised from £1 10s. to £10; whether he can say upon what principle the Commissioners of Valuation proceed in regard to valuation where the tenant makes improvements at his own expense; and was the local district council or poor law board consulted in regard to valuation of the premises; and, if not, can he say why this was not done.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Commissioner of Valuation reports that prior to 1898 the trader referred to, presumably Mr. J. Sheehan, owned two small cottages in Banteer valued at fifteen shillings each. These were replaced by a substantial new house which was valued in that year at £10. If Mr. Sheehan considered this valuation excessive he could have appealed. The Valuation Acts do not require the commissioner to consult the local rating authorities.

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* See *The Parliamentary Debates* [Fourth Series], Vol. lxxix., page 587.

Mr. FIELD: Does the right hon. Gentleman intend to apply the English system of valuation to Ireland?

Mr. WYNDHAM: I have said more than once that there is no intention to interfere with the Irish system.

THE IRISH ESTIMATES.

Sir THOMAS ESMONDE: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he can say when the Vote for the Local Government Board for Ireland will be taken, and if the Government will provide an early opportunity for discussing the case of the Wexford County Council *v.* The Local Government Board.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Of course, I shall be glad to take the Irish Estimates on any day that is most convenient to the Irish Members; but I may observe that before Easter there will be two opportunities at least on which it would be legitimate to raise the important question of "Wexford County Council *v.* The Local Government Board." Those occasions will be the Second and Third Readings of the Appropriation Bill.

THE CORONATION OATH.

Mr. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Cork County, N.E.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the fact that there is no Church established by law in Ireland, the language of the Coronation Oath will also be referred to the Committee about to be appointed to consider that part of the King's Accession Oath offensive to Roman Catholics.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I am sorry to say I have not been able to refer to the Coronation Oath, but, if my memory serves me rightly, there is nothing offensive to Roman Catholics in the Oath, though there does occur in the Oath a phrase that the King will uphold the Church as established by law in Ireland. The Oath, I think, ought to be referred to the Committee, as that phrase seems somewhat out of place.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

Presence of the Sovereign in Parliament—That they concur with the Commons in their Resolution, "That it is expedient that a Select Committee be appointed to join with a Committee of the Lords to consider the accommodation available in the House of Lords when the Sovereign is personally present in Parliament, and the advisability of substituting Westminster Hall on such an occasion for the House of Lords," as desired by this House.

CREMATION BILL [Lords].

Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Friday, and to be printed. [Bill 101.]

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE (EXEMPTION FROM THE STANDING ORDER).

Motion made, and Question put, "That the Business of Supply, if under consideration at Twelve o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order, Sittings of the House."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 195; Noes, 145. (Division List No. 70.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Aird, Sir John
Allhusen, Augustus Hy.Eden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird,John George Alexander
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour,Rt.Hon.A.J.(Manch'r
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst,Hon.AllenBenjamin
Beach,Rt.Hn.SirM.H.(Bristol
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Boulnois, Edmund
Bowles,Capt.H.F.(Middlesex)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Brown,AlexanderH.(Shropsh.
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V.C.W.(Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hon.J.(Birm.
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane,Hn.Thomas H.A.E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colomb,SirJohnCharlesReady
Colston, C. E. H. Athole
Corbett, A.Cameron(Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross,Herb.Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry

Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Elliot, Hn. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt Hn Sir J. (Manch.
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'r H'ml'ts
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Greene, Sir E W (B ry S Edm'nds
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (Mid'x
Hamilton, Marq of (L'nd'nderry
Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robt. Wm.
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'd
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Heath, Arthur H. (Hanley)
Heath, J. (Staffords, N.W.)
Helder, Augustus
Hope, J. F. (Sheff'ld, Brightsde.
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, Capt. J. (Kent, Fav'rsh
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lecky, Rt. Hn. Wm. Edw. H.
Lee, Arthur H (Hants, Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Macartney, Rt Hn W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Chas. (Liverpool)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinb., W.)
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maxwell, W. J. H (Dumfriessh.
Milward, Colonel Victor
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, Hn. Fred. (Monm'tsh.
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (Bute
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Parker, Gilbert
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rankin, Sir James
Reid, James (Geeenock)
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Ridley, Hon. M. W (Stalybridge
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, H. C (N'th'mb., Tyneside
Smith, James P. (Lanark.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hon Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Welby, Lt-Col A. C. E. (Taunt'n
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John L.
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Rt Hn J. Powell-(Bir.
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh., N.
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R (Bath)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, C. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herb. Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Austin, Sir John
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Bigwood, James
Blake, Edward
Boyle, James
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H
Carew, James Laurence
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Colville John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crombie, John William
Daly, James
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, Wm. J.
Duncan, James H.
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbt. John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
Harwood, George

Hayden, John Patrick
Heaton, John Henniker
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Holland, William Henry
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kinloch, Sir John George Smyth
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Leamy, Edmund
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lowther, Rt. Hn. James (Kent)
Lundon, W.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Cann, James
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mellor, Rt. Hon. J. William
Mooney, John J.
Murphy, J.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipper'ry Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, James (Rossc'mm'n N.
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Perks, Robert William
Price, Robert John
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt Hn. C. R. (North'nts
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thomas, J. A. (Gl'm'rg'n, Gower
Thompson, E. C. (Monaghan, N.
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Vincent, Col. Sir C E H (Sh'ffield)
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wodehouse, Hon. A. (Essex)
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Thomas Esmonde and Captain Donelan.

NEW BILLS.

MILITARY INSTRUCTION (SCHOOLS AND CADETS).

Bill to provide for the regulation of Military Instruction in Schools and in Cadet Corps and Companies and Cadet Battalions, ordered to be brought in by Sir John Kennaway, Mr. Griffith-Boscawen, Mr. Cubitt, Sir Henry Fletcher, Mr. Lambert, Mr. W. F. D. Smith, and Colonel Williams.

MILITARY INSTRUCTION (SCHOOLS AND CADETS) BILL.

"To provide for the regulation of Military Instruction in Schools and in Cadet Corps and Companies and Cadet Battalions," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 1st May, and to be printed. [Bill 102.]

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

Bill to make further provisions for the Housing of the Working Classes, ordered to be brought in by Dr. Macnamara, Mr. John Burns, Captain Norton, Dr. Shipman, Mr. George White, Mr. Samuel, and Mr. Bell.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES BILL.

"To make further provision for the Housing of the Working Classes," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 18th April, and to be printed. [Bill 103.]

CROFTERS' HOLDINGS (SCOTLAND).

Bill to amend the Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Act, 1886, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Cathcart Wason, Mr. Bignold, Mr. John Dewar, Mr. Leveson-Gower, Mr. Harmsworth, Mr. Weir, and Mr. Gordon.

CROFTERS' HOLDINGS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"To amend the Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Act, 1886," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 17th April, and to be printed. [Bill 104.]

SITES VALUES (LONDON) RATING.

Bill to provide for the rating of Sites Values in London, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Sydney Buxton, Mr. Moulton, Mr. John Burns, Mr. E. J. C. Morton, and Mr. Lough.

SITES VALUES (LONDON) RATING BILL.

"To provide for the rating of Sites Values in London," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 8th May, and to be printed. [Bill 105.]

FOREIGNERS' MARRIAGES.

Bill for the better protection of British subjects who intermarry with Foreigners in the United Kingdom of Great

Britain and Ireland, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Macdona, Mr. Talbot, Mr. Rothschild, Sir Joseph Dimsdale, Mr. Churchill, Lord Hugh Cecil, Captain Nolan, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, Dr. Farquharson, Mr. Samuel Evans, Mr. E. J. C. Morton, and Mr. Schwann.

FOREIGNERS' MARRIAGES BILL.

"For the better protection of British subjects who intermarry with Foreigners in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, and to be printed. [Bill 106.]

REGISTRATION OF CLUBS.

Bill to provide for the Registration of Clubs, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Caine, Mr. Eugene Wason, Mr. Hain, Mr. Lloyd-George, Mr. Schwann, and Mr. Samuel Young.

REGISTRATION OF CLUBS BILL.

"To provide for the Registration of Clubs," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday, 24th June, and to be printed. [Bill 107.]

SUMMARY JURISDICTION (IRELAND)

Bill to make provision with respect to entering into recognisances and finding sureties in certain cases in Ireland, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Attorney General for Ireland and Mr. Wyndham.

SUMMARY JURISDICTION (IRELAND) BILL.

"To make provision with respect to entering into recognisances and finding sureties in certain cases in Ireland," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 108.]

SUPPLY.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Civil Services and Revenue Departments Revised Supplementary Estimate, 1900-1901.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £893,316, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the following Civil Services and Revenue Departments, namely:—

CIVIL SERVICES.

		£
	Class V.	
Vote 3.	Colonial Services	212,300
Vote 2.	British Protectorates in Uganda, etc.	200,000
	Class VII.	
Vote 1.	Temporary Commissions ...	9,000
	Class II.	
Vote 23.	Stationery and Printing ...	110,000
Vote 27.	Secretary for Scotland, Office of	100
	Class III.	
Vote 2.	Miscellaneous Legal Expenses	400
	Class IV.	
Vote 5.	Wallace Collection	3,333
Vote 8.	London University	70
	Class V.	
Vote 1.	Diplomatic and Consular Services	15,800
Vote 6.	Treasury Chest Fund... ...	66,108
	Class VI.	
Vote 1.	Superannuation and Retired Allowances	10,000
Vote 5.	Savings Banks and Friendly Societies Deficiencies ...	51,758
	Class VII.	
Vote 2.	Miscellaneous Expenses ...	4,600
Vote 6.	Local Loans Fund	4,337
Vote 7.	Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York (Visit to the Colonies)	20,000
Vote 8.	Funeral of Her late Majesty	35,500
	REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.	
Vote 2.	Inland Revenue	20,000
Vote 3.	Post Office	130,000
Vote 4.	Post Office Packet Service ...	10
	Total Civil Services and Revenue Departments	£893,316

***SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT** (Monmouthshire, W.): I rise to put a question as to the position in which the House now stands under the operation of what is admitted to be an unexampled and unprecedented proceeding.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): No.

*Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT: The right hon. Gentleman contradicts me when I affirm that it is unprecedented. I was unable to be here yesterday, but I read in the reports of the proceedings that the right hon. Gentleman himself said there was no precedent. Therefore I am justified in saying that it is unprecedented by the words which came from his own mouth. I wish to know how is the Committee to deal with this Vote? How far is it allowed to discuss a Vote on the subjects which the order Paper contains? There are a great many items grouped in the one Vote. Is the Committee at liberty to discuss and to vote upon all the subjects severally contained in the Paper? Under the old system, even with the prospect of the guillotine in the end, the House was allowed to discuss and divide on every Vote. Is the Leader of the party opposite going to give under this new proceeding the same facilities to the House as have hitherto been enjoyed in dealing with Supplementary Estimates? Can an Amendment be moved on every subject contained in the Order Paper, and can a division be taken upon each question? If anybody may move an Amendment upon any matter contained in the Paper, and take a division upon it, we shall know how to proceed. But in that case I do not see exactly how it is worth while to revolutionise the financial principles upon which the House always proceeds in this matter.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I desire to ask whether the procedure of the House with regard to the Civil Service Estimates as now drawn will not be precisely the same as the procedure with which the House is perfectly familiar in regard to Supplementary Estimates for the Army and Navy, both of which contain items of the utmost difference, and whether it is not also the same as the procedure, with which the House is familiar, in dealing with the Excess Votes, in which case both the subjects and the accounting officers are different.

*Mr. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): On the point of order I would remark that in the case of the Army and Navy the items are all under one official head. In the case we have before us there are many official heads of Departments.

*The CHAIRMAN: I think the House will wish to follow the same procedure as it does in the case of Votes on Account. The question there is put in one lump sum, and the question in this case is put in one lump sum. In both cases the Votes are divided into a number of items. Of course I shall endeavour, as far as I possibly can, to call hon. Members who wish to address the Committee in the order in which the items come.

Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): As you have cited the question of a Vote on Account, I desire to ask whether the effect of moving a reduction with regard to an item low down in the list would be to exclude the moving of a reduction with regard to an item higher up in the list, and whether it is not entirely open to you to call Members who wish to speak, if you see fit, without regard to the exact order in which the Votes are taken.

*The CHAIRMAN: I shall make a point of endeavouring to call hon. Members in the order in which the items come, because I bear in mind the rule of the House that if an item low in the list is taken it is impossible to go back to a former one.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): The right hon. Gentleman has not answered the question of my right hon. friend in regard to the possibility of having successive divisions upon what are really separate Votes although now lumped together in one Vote. Would it be possible to have a series of discussions and divisions on the items as they occur?

*The CHAIRMAN: That is so, until such time as the whole Vote is taken.

The Ashanti Expedition.

Mr. C. P. SCOTT (Lancashire, Leigh) said he ventured to think that this Vote was one not to be lightly considered. It affected the credit and interest of this country, and he thought, therefore, the Committee should have more information from the Colonial Secretary as to what made the war necessary. Many of them listened on the previous evening with a great deal of attention to what had been said by the Colonial Secretary on the subject, but they listened in vain for any precise statement upon this matter. They did not want to be told in general terms what were the difficulties of the position in South Africa and what were the difficulties and aims of the Colonial Office, but they wanted to know the particular reasons that made this particular war necessary or justifiable. On the previous night the Colonial Secretary indulged in vague generalities and fell foul of the late Government. He told them that the British Government had undertaken responsibilities in Africa and it was only when he came into power as Colonial Secretary that an adequate sense of the position demanded was shown by the Government. The hon. Member thought the Colonial Secretary did certain injustice to the late Government in that matter. He did not think the late Government were so blind to the interests of this country or to our obligations as the right hon. Gentleman represented. It was perfectly true they did not go to war with anybody. That was perhaps the reason why the Colonial Secretary found fault with them. He believed the late Government entered into negotiations with Germany which settled some outstanding difficulties with Germany; but the Colonial Secretary seemed to think that wars of this kind were absolutely necessary, and it was that which made his speech so unsatisfactory. We had no guarantee that we should not be embarked on a series of wars of this kind. The Colonial Secretary seemed to indicate that if we did our duty we were bound to go to war with one of these nations after another. That required a little explanation. The right hon. Gentleman had also told them that we were called upon to suppress slavery and the slave trade and human sacrifices; but these obligations were not new. They extended to all spheres of influence, and no doubt there had been an increase in our obligations as compared with what they were formerly. What he wanted to know was, what was the particular justification for this war in which we were now engaged? It was to that the Committee ought to direct their attention.

It was pretty obvious from the Blue-book that we drifted into this war at a time when our forces were engaged to the utmost in South Africa. The first telegram in the Blue-book was an inquiry from the Colonial Secretary asking what was up. The Colonial Secretary found that there were disturbances, and he had not the slightest idea what led up to them or what they were all about. We entered upon this war and seemed to stumble and blunder along without any adequate preparation, and we were only extricated from it by the extraordinary gallantry of the soldiers and officers in command. What led up to the war? Sir Frederick Hodgson went to Coomassie, apparently under instructions from the Colonial Secretary, and put forward demands, the most provocative he could put, to the Ashantis. He informed them positively that King Prempeh would never come back. They were in hopes that he would come back. Not satisfied with that, he told them they would have to pay a heavy tribute. The Colonial Secretary made light of the amount of it, but £12,500 was not a small amount for a people to pay who were impoverished by the destruction of their commerce. Beyond that, Sir Frederick Hodgson made a demand for the Golden Stool, which was the emblem of authority in Ashanti. If they surrendered the Golden Stool it meant that they ceased to be a nation, and became a scattered number of tribes. If that was to be done, it should be done with an adequate force and after proper preparation. If we were going to take away the liberties of the people it ought to be done deliberately and founded upon a thoroughly thought out policy. Nothing of that kind was done. The expedition was undertaken without any knowledge of the feelings of the Ashantis, and it was undertaken at the worst time of the year. The Colonial Secretary ought to have given them a little more information as to the reasons which made a step of that kind necessary, and as to the necessity that existed for entering upon a war which involved such bloodshed and such immense loss to the colony and the Ashantis themselves. They were told that a policy of this kind was rendered necessary by our obligations. They were told that we were bound to put down slavery. There was no question of putting down slavery or human sacrifices in this instance. It was a question simply of raising tribute and getting hold of the Golden Stool which was the symbol of authority. If we were going to govern these countries we ought to endeavour to do so by entering into a friendly understanding with the chiefs. The French managed to get on better; they did not engage in these little wars.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.) said the hon. Member was quite mistaken. In the last few months the French had had wars with two of the principal chiefs.

MR. C. P. SCOTT said the policy of France would bear favourable comparison with ours in that respect and in a great many others. He trusted that they were not to understand from the Colonial Secretary that this was the beginning of a series of wars to be undertaken with no more justification than this war, and that our policy in the future might be a little more in accordance with the dictates of humanity than it had hitherto been.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) contended that the Colonial Secretary's assertion that the reason for the opposition encountered by the last expedition to Coomassie was the objection of the natives to any interference with their slave dealings was incorrect, as it was conclusively proved by the Bluebook that the whole of the disturbances were caused by the refusal of the Government to restore King Prempeh. The treatment of that unfortunate man had been perfectly scandalous, and it was no excuse to attack his personal character. In 1896 the Ashantis offered no opposition to the force sent out to Coomassie, and the Government could have imposed whatever conditions they chose, restored order in the county, and secured all they were striving for, through the authority of King Prempeh. Instead, however, of attempting to rule the country through the king, they kidnapped and imprisoned him, and down to the present day no satisfactory explanation of their action had been given. The result of those proceedings was to be found in the shedding of blood, the uprising of the natives, and the trouble for which the House was now called upon to pay. If the Government were going to war and to impose large burdens upon the taxpayers in order to put down savage practices in any part of the world, England would always be at war, and the expense would be untold. But what really was at the bottom of this business was the same thing as was at the root of the South African trouble. There had unfortunately been discovered in Ashanti rich deposits of gold, and almost simultaneously with this expensive and sanguinary military expedition there were floated in the City limited liability companies for the exploration and exploitation of the goldfields of Ashanti. There never was a case in which it was more clearly proved that gold was a perfect curse to the people of the country in which it might be discovered. The Colonial Secretary had said that the war was undertaken to put down the slave trade. That trade, if it existed now, had existed for many, many years past, and why was no attempt to suppress it made long ago by the present or some preceding Government? According to the right hon. Gentleman, the Government had been consideration itself, and had done everything possible to smooth over the difficulties. To disprove that, one case might be cited of the manner in which these people had been treated. They might be called savage people, and no doubt it was a great mistake that the Almighty, when He created the world, did not make all the populations as highly civilised as the English people. The habits and customs of these people were no doubt shocking in many respects, but, after all, they deserved some consideration as human beings created by God, just as were other people. In 1896, when the British expedition arrived without opposition at Coomassie, there was a great ceremony. The troops were drawn up in a square, in the midst of which a species of throne was constructed of empty boxes and so forth. On this throne the commander of the expedition took his seat, and nothing would suit these people, who wished to conciliate native opinion, but that this unfortunate native king should be marched out and made, on bended knee, to kiss the boots of Sir Francis Scott, the British commander. Even this degrading, humiliating, and scandalous exhibition was not sufficient: the poor old aged mother of the king was forced to go through the same ordeal. The only excuse made when the matter was brought forward in the House of Commons was that, according to a native custom, no submission was complete unless the conquered person made this obeisance to his conqueror, and that in order to impress upon the minds of these people the fact that they had been thoroughly conquered it was necessary that the king and his mother should go through this exhibition. That this description was not exaggerated was shown by Baden-Powell's "Downfall of Prempeh," a most interesting book and profusely illustrated, the first illustration being----

*THE CHAIRMAN: I must remind the hon. Member that we are not now discussing the expenditure on that expedition. Upon this Vote the hon. Member must confine himself to the last expedition.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND explained that he was endeavouring to show the causes which led to the recent military operations for which the Committee were now asked to pay. He believed that with proper treatment those operations would never have been necessary. He would not labour that point beyond saying that if any person imagined that what he had said about the treatment meted out to the king and his mother was untrue, he referred them to General Baden-Powell's book, and there they would see exactly what he had described. Could anybody imagine that it was possible to deal with a wild and untrained people of this kind if we outraged every feeling that they might have; if we did everything in our power to humiliate them and treat them with contempt; and if we treated their king in a way which must be deeply resented? The recent military operations had cost us many valuable lives, which certainly might have been sacrificed in a better and nobler work, and now the House was asked to pass hundreds of thousands of pounds which need never have been incurred if, instead of attempting to ride absolutely roughshod over those people, King Prempeh had been allowed time to agree to the terms which were offered to him in 1896. Had this been done the whole country might have been ruled with perfect order, and the outrages spoken of by the Colonial Secretary would have been done away with. There were other portions of Africa where there was contentment and satisfaction, where the native chiefs were allowed to remain among their people, and if that had been done in this case he maintained that the necessity for all this miserable expenditure and terrible bloodshed would have been done away with. There were no doubt abuses in foreign countries which the Colonial Secretary and the Government might think it necessary to spend large sums upon, but there were plenty of abuses in this country which it would be equally well worth while to spend money to do away with. Some hon. Members on the opposite side deeply resented his frequent interference in those debates, but he was never asked to vote the money for these miserable wars without having it forced upon his mind in the strongest possible way that there were scores of ways in which the money might be more gloriously and usefully spent than in carrying on these wars. The hon. Member for West Islington had done good service in calling attention to this matter, for the practice of asking the House to pass hundreds of thousands of pounds in this way was one which ought to be protested against on all sides, and if the great mass of the people of this country could realise and understand how uncalled for all those operations were, and how little return ever came to England, Scotland, or Ireland for that expenditure, he believed they would set their faces against them, and they would not tolerate a single penny-piece spent in this way.

The Colonial Secretary last night delivered a ferocious attack upon the Under Secretary for Colonial Affairs in the late Government. All he could say was that the late Government, whatever else might be laid to their blame, never entered in an unreasonable and light-hearted way into wars of this kind, and the Colonial Secretary seemed to make this a matter for blame. He (Mr. Redmond) held that it was to their credit that they did not. This war would never have been entered into to put down slavery, and it was a disgraceful and a horrible state of affairs at this period of the world's history to find that wherever gold was discovered, whether it was in North, East, West, or South Africa, two things happened—(1) limited liability companies were formed in the City of London, and (2) costly expeditions were sent out to seize the land wherever this gold might be. This took place in South Africa, and it was exactly what had taken place in Ashanti. It would be infinitely better and nobler and more in accordance with the dictates of humanity if the rights of these people were respected to some extent, and if this attempt to plant the British flag everywhere and anywhere at all costs was stopped; for it was the besetting sin of this country and of all Englishmen that they were so filled with the idea of the merits of their own rule and the pride of their own greatness that they could not tolerate or understand other people in any part of the world being desirous of living according to their own wishes in their own country. Until these small wars were given up there would be a continual waste of the public money of the country, and it was a disgrace that the benches of the Liberal party were empty while this kind of thing was going on. If there were an adequate representation of working people in this House there would be other voices raised protesting against this expenditure. In this matter the voices of the majority of those who ought to speak for the taxpayers and working people were silent, but his voice and the voices of other Irish representatives would be raised, and he believed that in this way they were doing a great service not only to the people they represented, but also to the great mass of the people of this country, who cared nothing about gold-mining and company promoting in the City, and who were sick at heart when they read in their newspapers that every day hundreds of thousands of pounds were voted in this way in the House of Commons, not one penny of which went to better the condition of the people of Great Britain or Ireland. All this money was being spent simply to carry the sword into the land of people in distant parts, whose only crime was that God made them what they were instead of making them highly civilised British subjects.

MR. THOMAS BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield) said his hon. friend, in his impassioned speech, appeared to have forgotten that we were responsible for this protectorate in the eyes of Europe. He had forgotten that in 1896 the King of Ashanti was the most cruel and heartless man this world ever produced. We sent out an expedition there to stop one of the most cruel things that was ever perpetrated in Africa.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: You said the same thing about Kruger.

MR. THOMAS BAYLEY: But there was no gold then in this case.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Oh, yes, there was.

MR. THOMAS BAYLEY said the late war was the remains of the 1896 war, and the Government were perfectly honest and straightforward on this question. They had two keynotes with which he thoroughly agreed—one was that wherever the British flag flies we must stop human sacrifice; and the other was the abolition of slavery. He only wished that the Foreign Office had been as firm and determined on the East coast as they had been on the West coast of Africa. He believed that the Government and the Colonial Secretary were honest in their efforts to stop human sacrifice and slavery. He noticed that a sum of £12,500 a year was to be raised and would have to be collected by the hut tax. He thought it would cost more in small wars and collections than the sum was worth. and it would cause also a great deal of bad feeling. He thought the Government might consider some better way of raising that sum. He gave both the Government and the Colonial Secretary credit for putting their foot down in Ashanti in a determined manner.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) said that if all hon. Members on that side of the House were convinced that these wars were entered upon for legitimate British interests they might not have grudged the expenditure of not merely this sum of money but the expenditure of ten times the amount. It would be in the recollection of hon. Members on both sides of the House that the complaint against the Government had been that they had not taken sufficient measures to repress slavery in East Africa. Therefore, if they criticised the expenditure of £400,000 on wars in West Africa, it was because they believed that these wars were not waged to abolish slavery but from some other excuse. If his hon. friend the Member for Chesterfield had, before making his speech, carefully read the Blue-books, he would not have made the observations he did. What were the two grievances of the Ashantis? According to Sir F. Hodgson himself they complained against the abolition of slavery; but they said: "You British are not sincere, because while you insist on our abolishing slavery you maintain it in another form." And Sir F. Hodgson admitted that at p. 113 of the Blue-book, by declaring that he had insisted on the compulsory supply of carriers and of men to make roads, but that the chiefs declared they were unable to obtain a sufficient number of labourers to work in the native gold pits, to carry on their ordinary farm labours, and also to supply labourers for public purposes, such as working on the public roads and the conveyance of public stores. The Ashantis might be savages, but at any rate they were a very intelligent race, and they could see the utter hollowness of the demand made by us for the suppression of slavery when we were forcing slavery upon them.

A great deal had been said about the mad boy and the quest for the Golden Stool; but, in fact, that was a mad enterprise from beginning to end. What did that mad boy say? He told certain British officers that he had been through several Ashanti villages, and that the Ashantis were assembling in their temples and singing songs all night. We had seen a good deal of that assembling and singing in temples all night much nearer home, and he did not think it was much more sensible than that in Ashanti. And the mad boy said that if the Governor would pay him a large sum of money he would lead an expedition to find the Golden Stool. But all that had nothing to do with the abolition of slavery. What was the defence of the Governor for following the lead of the mad boy? The fact was that the quest of the Golden Stool was something like the quest of the Holy Grail. Sir F. Hodgson said that if he could only get possession of the Golden Stool he would be able to govern the country for all time. Sir F. Hodgson crossed the Prah on 22nd March, but up to that time there had been no insurrection. The Governor in his despatches, in fact, repeatedly declared that he had no idea that there was any discontent amongst the tribes, but, on the contrary, that he had been received with all respect. The proof of that was that he went up from the coast to Coomassie with an escort of only thirty Hausas, that he had been met by no obstacle, and had never been molested in the country which was supposed to be seething with discontent. What happened when he arrived at Coomassie? There was a great reception and the surrounding tribes and their kings marched past him, with one exception, which came in later on. What sign was there in that of any great insurrection? On the 30th March—it would have been far better if it had been the 1st April—the Governor heard the story from the mad boy as to the Golden Stool, and he sent an armed expedition, guided by the mad boy, into the interior of the country. The Governor said in his despatch: "The 1st April was a day of extreme anxiety to me." He was not at all surprised. For two or three days this armed expedition marched about the country; the mad boy went into the villages and told the natives that "these people"—meaning the Governor's expedition—"have come to wage war against you." After that it became clear to the villagers that it was simply a raiding expedition in quest of the Golden Stool. The result was the revolt, the war, and the expenditure of £400,000. Now, who was to blame for this war? The chieftains were not merely loyal but submissive, and prepared to demand redress in a perfectly constitutional way. Was there anything more constitutional than for these chiefs to come to Coomassie to receive the Governor with welcomes and to present him with salutations?

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL (Oldham) said that the hon. Member was forgetting that an insurrection might spring up in these savage countries under mistaken notions.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said that, of course, an insurrection might spring up in this foolish manner if this country allowed its policy to be guided by mad boys. If that sort of action was characteristic of the Colonial Office he could understand that we would have not three wars, but many more in the next few years. All this showed that the war was precipitated not only because there was a quest for the Golden Stool, but because of the irritation in the minds of these people at the annexation of their country. Questions had been put to the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary the previous night: dates were given and incidents were referred to; but the right hon. Gentleman in his reply, instead of addressing himself to the points put, entered into an elaborate defence of the administration of his own office. The question was what had happened in this particular case—not whether it was necessary to defend Ashanti, or to develop the gold mines. The gold mines had never been mentioned in these despatches. Was the war, in the ordinary cant phrase, "inevitable"? The right hon. Gentleman said, "When I came to the Colonial Office there was nothing done; but the moment I came on the scene there were six wars."

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I said nothing of the kind.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Oh, but I have got it all here.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: What I said was that I am responsible for three wars, and the Foreign Office is responsible for three wars.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: The right hon. Gentleman said that as soon as his Ministry came into office there were six wars. That did just as well for him. The right hon. Gentleman said that when his hon. friends now on the Opposition Benches wers in office they did nothing. Quite true. Their Estimates provided for no wars. They had better ideas of profit and loss in business than that. And now he could quite understand that the right hon. Gentleman had got into the habit of talking of these wars as if they were all feathers in his cap. If he only went on, the right hon. Gentleman's headgear would be like that of a Red Indian! He ventured to say that the right hon. Gentleman in defending his action the previous evening did not do so with the sobriety due to this important and solemn matter. After all, human life was worth some respectful treatment. They ought to have some justification of the foolish policy of the Government in regard to the Golden Stool and of the hundreds and thousands of the corpses of savages festering round the fort of Coomassie. It was not enough to say, "Look at the great colonial policy of the last five years." That was no answer. "I have opened up new markets," said the right hon. Gentleman; but that also was no answer. If we went into wars they profited trade to a certain extent. £400,000 of trade was something, if we spent nothing else. But that was not the sort of industry that was wanted to open up new markets. He ventured to say that the community generally would not benefit by it; that these people in Ashanti would prefer to conduct their operations quietly; and it was only when the right hon. Gentleman went out of his way to offend their sentiments in connection with their native affairs that they forced on this war. A poll-tax equivalent to 4s. per head had been demanded upon this savage community. Where were we to get it from? We were collecting the taxes in Uganda in the form of boa constrictors and hippopotami—the only products of the country. But so far as he was aware there were not even those fiscal resources in Ashanti. It was true there were certain native gold mines; but we had abolished slavery, and it was by slave labour that these mines were worked. Still, we demanded the tax at the hands of the chiefs! He quite agreed that we should abolish slavery, but at the same time we should not compel them to pay that which the slaves had earned. The right hon. Gentleman had not addressed himself to the question with a proper regard for its solemnity. He drew attention to what he described as the ridiculous language used by Sir F. Hodgson to the chiefs with reference to the Golden Stool, and said it would have been better if the Colonial Secretary had addressed himself to a defence of the Government in respect of the action of Sir F. Hodgson. In his address to the chiefs Sir F. Hodgson asked, "Where is the Golden Stool? Why am I not sitting on it at this moment? I am the representative of the paramount Power; why have you relegated me to this chair?" (referring to a biscuit box). This was childish babble to address to these savages in the name of the Sovereign of a great country like this, and it was calculated only to lower, not to enhance, British prestige. The right hon. Gentleman had said we had to defeat them, it was necessary to kill them, in order to show that we were a great nation; but we had gone through that process before, and they knew the superiority of British arms. Was it necessary to repeat the process periodically? If so, a greater condemnation of the policy of the Government in this matter could not be conceived. It was not a question of protecting the country or compelling these people to free their slaves. If it was a question of the freeing of slaves, we might commence that at Zanzibar.

Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT did not consider the speech of the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down a practical one. The Ashanti affair was closed, and although there might be regrettable incidents connected with the dealings with these kings it was impossible to go back into the matter. On the whole the results had been good. The outcome of British control in Ashanti would result in the safety and prosperity of hundreds and thousands of natives in the future, as had been truly said by the Colonial Secretary on the previous evening. He protested against the statement of the hon. Gentleman that the late Government had too good an idea of profit and loss to indulge in this way; had the policy of the late Government been pursued in Africa we should not have had any possessions to deal with at all, either in Ashanti or South Africa. It was futile at this time to talk of the mistakes which had occurred, although he admitted there might be some. For instance, he did not think that the mission which had been sent by King Prempeh was fairly dealt with. His main complaint against the Colonial Secretary with regard to the Ashanti question was very different to any of those just put forward. In his opinion there was a want of sufficient force at Coomassie previous to the outbreak; that was a serious question, and he did not know who was responsible for it, but someone undoubtedly was, and the failure to maintain sufficient force at Coomassie was entirely responsible for the terrible loss of life that had occurred. It was perfectly plain to everybody that a very terrible tragedy had only been narrowly averted by the escape of the Governor. He desired to know why so very small a force was left in the country of a warlike and unsubdued people without any immediate provision being made for its reinforcement; that was a point upon which they were entitled to have the views of the right hon. Gentleman. What had happened in Ashanti would work for good; we should possess in the country and the neighbouring regions a colony of great and increasing wealth, which would be useful to this country in the future in taking its products, and which would give employment to many British subjects, and under the British rule the black races would be much better off than ever they had been before, and under the British Government they would attain to a certain degree of civilisation.

Mr. LOUGH (Islington, W.) said he had hoped that the answer given by the Colonial Secretary on the previous evening would have enabled him to avoid troubling the House to go into the division lobbies on this question, but unless that answer was amended he should be compelled to press for a division. In answer to the suggestion that this expedition was for the purpose of putting down human sacrifice and slavery he challenged anyone to say whether there had been any human sacrifice or whether slavery had been allowed in the country during the last five years. The Government had accomplished their purpose of abolishing human sacrifice and slavery years before the outrage took place. He called the attention of the Committee to the fact that this was merely a general argument thrown out by the right hon. Gentleman to justify a war for which he could find no other justification whatever. Sir Frederick Hodgson had given three causes for the war, none of which were sufficient causes. The first was the heavy tribute which he said must be paid by the natives, and in this case there appeared to be a difference of opinion between the right hon. Gentleman and Sir Frederick Hodgson. The right hon. Gentleman said it was a poll tax on the whole male population of Ashanti. Sir Frederick Hodgson said it was interest on the cost of the late expedition. The right hon. Gentleman stated that there was a balance of £50,000 in the Gold Coast budget. If there was he did not think it would be fair to the Gold Coast to sweep away all that to pay the money due for Ashanti. The right hon. Gentleman said at one time that it was a poll tax of four shillings, and at another time it was the interest on outlay. This attempt to chevy these people out of the money had been the first cause of the war. With regard to the Golden Stool he thought the Secretary for the Colonies should do something to soothe the irritated feeling of the natives. We were still searching for the Golden Stool, and the right hon. Gentleman stated on the previous night that he approved of the search. Was it to go on eternally, and was it to be "unconditional surrender" until we got the Golden Stool? Surely we might take a practical view of the question, and the right hon. Gentleman might announce that there had been sufficient bloodshed and loss of money over this matter. The right hon. Gentleman said we had admitted these natives to the *Pax Britannica*. He hardly ever made a speech on the colonies without quoting the words *Pax Britannica*. Where had the *Pax Britannica* been since he came into office? There had been eight wars in Africa, and there would never be any other policy so long as the right hon. Gentleman was in charge of the Colonial Office. The Ashanti war was "over" simply because the natives were tired for the present. Could it be said that with the sense of injustice in their minds they were not preparing for another war? They would break out again and again unless we met their just complaints in a kindly and conciliatory spirit. It was because that had not been done that he moved the reduction of the first item of the Vote by £100.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Item, Class 5, Vote 3, be reduced by £100, in respect of disturbances in Ashanti."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

MR. BROADHURST (Leicester) said one of the most painful features of the debate was the absence from it of a number of hon. Members who were leading lights in the different religious communities of the country interested in foreign missions. In years gone by we used to hear the voice of the missionary interest raised in favour of the civilisation of Africa by peaceful processes, and not by warlike proceedings such as we seemed to depend upon now. The hon. Member for the Chesterfield Division of Derbyshire was handsomely caught in the colonial net so cunningly spread on the previous night, and he was innocent enough to believe that this war in Ashanti was undertaken out of a pure desire to put an end to human sacrifices. It was noticeable of late years that the loadstone which called the Government to relieve oppression was generally found in the gold mines, and here it was again. When this Government professed to go to the relief of human beings it would be found, if it were looked into a little further, that speculators were near the scene of their action. Talk of a crusade to suppress human sacrifices! Could there be anything more monstrous than such a profession in face of the account on page 46 of the Blue-book of the state of things that was found at Coomassie? Why, it was a disgrace to a civilised nation. We should have heard nothing about the stool if it had been a wooden one. An orange box would have been perfectly satisfactory. There would have been no demand for it had it not been that it was supposed to be made of the precious metal. Were we suppressing slavery? Before we went to the native chiefs in the name of freedom we should remove the compound at Kimberley. What had we there? How were the wealthy men who were the friends of the Government, and who were the authors of the war in

South Africa, producing gold out there, but by a system of slavery ?

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN asked whether the hon. Member was in order in the line he was now taking.

*The CHAIRMAN pointed out that it was not in order to discuss matters relating to Kimberley on this Vote.

Mr. BROADHURST said he recognised that the reference was inconvenient to the Secretary for the Colonies, and if it was ruled out of order he would not pursue the subject. He might be allowed to say that the Secretary for the Colonies based this expedition for loot in Ashanti on the ground that he was going there for the prevention of further human sacrifices and the prevention of slavery. He only desired to show that we ought to take the mote out of our own eye before we attempted to pluck the beam out of our brother's eye. The right hon. Gentleman could not deny that there had been "blackbird hunting" in the interest of some of the authorities in South Africa. That resulted in the capture of a poor creature who preferred suicide by drowning to slavery in the mines. He understood that the right hon. Gentleman had assured the House that he was going to inquire into the truth of that.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I must appeal to you again. If the hon. Gentleman is in order I must go fully into the statement he is now making. I ask you whether he is in order in referring to these matters in Rhodesia and Kimberley.

*The CHAIRMAN: I understood the hon. Member to say that he was not going to refer to them.

Mr. BROADHURST: I do not wish to pursue it except for the purpose of illustration, and I really think if the Colonial Secretary would allow me for a moment to pursue my statement, under the guidance of the Chair——

*The CHAIRMAN: The hon. Gentleman is entitled to a passing reference, but to go into this question and state a number of facts, which the right hon. Gentleman says he may have to contradict at a later stage, is clearly outside the scope of this discussion.

Mr. BROADHURST said he supported the motion for the reduction of the Vote because he believed the Government, in pursuing a policy of universal war in Africa, were pursuing a deadly and disastrous policy, not only financially, but for the reputation and good name of our common country. The Colonial Secretary seemed to think a great argument in favour of his policy was that he had made more wars than the Liberal party. Then there seemed to be a conflict between the Colonial Office and the Foreign Office as to which had made most wars. The Liberal party ruled Africa on the lines of peace, and he sincerely hoped that when they returned to power again they would resume the policy of peace, and that they would not attempt to teach savages the wickedness of human sacrifices by indulging in great slaughter, with modern weapons, of the poor savage people we sought to rule. The basis of this movement in Ashanti was the curse of gain. He could vote with a clear conscience against that policy.

*Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT: I wish to say, in a few sentences, why I shall vote for the reduction of this Vote. It is on account of the defence which has been put forward by the Colonial Secretary. He has claimed credit for this Vote as being an instance of the superiority of the present Administration over the late Administration in regard to the number of wars in which it has been engaged. Whenever such a policy is advocated upon such grounds as that, I shall vote against every sixpence.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.) said this was the third expedition which the British Government had indulged in for the purpose of introducing civilisation into Ashanti. Civilisation introduced by the British Government was always introduced with the bayonets of soldiers. The Government went to these countries with the Bible in one hand and the sword in the other. He thought the English race should give effect to their missionary instincts a little more in their own country. There were some English towns where some good might be done.

If the hon. Member for West Islington had not moved the reduction of the Vote, he would have moved a reduction of £18,000, that being the amount of additional taxation which it represented so far as Ireland was concerned. He protested against the policy of introducing civilisation by warfare on savage peoples, who were practically defenceless, because they could not possibly withstand quick-firing guns and new deadly inventions. It was a policy which would make the British name detested wherever conquests were made.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: May I make an appeal in the interest of the discussions that are to come? It is evident that if we discuss this Vote at too great length we will find little time left for the consideration of the other Votes. I would therefore beg the House to try to come to a decision.

MR. O'MARA (Kilkenny, S.) said the dishonourable means by which King Prempeh was entrapped must have weighed with the natives, and he did not think that sufficient attention had been given to the matter. Methods of sharp practice against weaker opponents were very much to be deprecated. They were out of place in the Colonial Office, however well they might be suited to Birmingham. The Colonial Secretary had not replied to the many criticisms which had been addressed to him that day. The First Lord of the Treasury had appealed to the House generally to accelerate the progress of the Vote through the House. The business of the House would be much accelerated if Ministers did not treat the criticisms coming from the Irish Members with the contempt they had shown. It would seem that the war was made for the Golden Stool. Perhaps the Colonial Secretary wanted it as a stool of repentance, from which to do penance for all the wars he had made.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 137; Noes, 254. (Division List No. 71.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, C. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Barlow, John Emmott
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bell, Richard
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carew, James Laurence
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Causton, Richard Knight
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Crombie, John William
Daly, James
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, John Edward
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, Rt Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Holland, William Henry
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kinloch, Sir John George Smyth
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lundon, W.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Mellor, Rt. Hon. John W.
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Moss, Samuel
Murphy, J.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipper'ry Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Price, Robert John
Reddy, M.
Redmond, William (Clare)
Reid, Sir R. T. (Dumfries)
Rigg, Richard
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)

Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair,Capt.John(Forfarsh.)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer,Rt.Hn.C.R(N'thants)
Stevenson, Francis S
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas,F.Freeman-(Hastings
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas CourtenayT.
Wason,Eugene (Clackmannan
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (Yorks., E.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, Osmond(Merioneth
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Lough and Mr. Broadhurst.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bagot, Capt.JoscelineFitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt.Hn.A.J.(Manch'r
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hn.Allen Benjamin
Beach,Rt.Hn.SirM.H.(Bristol
Beach,Rt.Hn.W.W.B.(Hants.
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bill, Charles
Bond, Edward
Bowles, Capt.H.F.(Middlesex
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W.(Derbysh.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn J.(Birm.
Chamberlain,J.Austen (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colomb, Sir John Charles R.
Colston, Chas. Edw.H. Athole
Corbett, A. Cameron(Glasgow
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross,Herb.Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies,SirHoratioD(Chatham
Dewar,T.R(T'rH'mlets,SGeo.
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dimsdale,SirJoseph Cockfield
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred. D.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Dunn, Sir William
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot,Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison
Fergusson,Rt.HnSirJ.(Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald,SirRobertPenrose-
Fitzroy,Hon.EdwardAlgernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Foster,SirMichael(Lond.Univ.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Garfit, William
Gibbs,Hn.A.G.H(CityofLond.
Gibbs,Hon.Vicary (St.Albans)
Godson,SirAugustusFrederick
Gordon,Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Gordon,MajEvans-(T'rHmlets
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt.Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen,Hon.GeorgeJoachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene,SirEW(B'rySEdm'nds
Greene,W.Raymond-(Cambs.)
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,Rt.Hn.Ld.G.(Midx
Hamilton,Marq.of(Londndrry
Hanbury,Rt.Hn.Robert Wm.
Hardy,Laurence(KentAshf'rd
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harris,F.Leverton (Tynem'th)
Harwood, George
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath,ArthurHoward(Hanley
Heath, James(Staffords,N.W.
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hoare, E. Brodie (Hampstead)
Hobhouse,Henry (Somerset,E.
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope,J.F.(SheffieldBrightside
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Hoult, Joseph
Howard,Capt.J.(KentFaversh
Hozier, Hon. James Hy. Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks, N. R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir J. H.
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T.(Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney,Col. W. (Salop
Kimber, Henry
Lambton, HonFrederick Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lecky,Rt.Hon.Wm.Edw. H.
Lee,ArthurH.(Hants,Farham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(BristolS
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas,Col.Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W. G. E.
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Iver,SirLewis(EdinburghW
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriessh.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Montagu,Hon.J.Scott (Hants.
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More,Robt.Jasper(Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morgan,Hn.Fred(Monm'thsh.
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris,Hon.Martin Henry F.

Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur A. A. (Deptford
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt Hn. A Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Parker, Gilbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Peel, Hn Wm. Robert Wellesley
Pierpoint, Robert
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Rankin, Sir James
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. E. J.
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, H. C (North'mb. Tynesi'e
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Ernest (W. Bromwich
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hn. Humphrey Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H. (Sh'ffld
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

Original question again proposed.

TRANSVAAL CONCESSIONS COMMISSION.

MR. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield), in moving to reduce the Vote by £200, said he was well aware that everything uttered in the House of Commons was used in the Cape by the one party or the other for political purposes. He did not wish in any way to intensify the racial struggle now proceeding, but there were times in the lives of men as of nations when criticism of private and urgent affairs was necessary in the public interest. For that reason he had no hesitation in bringing certain facts before the Committee; but he was able to do so only in a partial manner owing to the limited reference and to the fact that the Concessions Commission had not yet reported. That Commission would go down to history as one more of those Commissions appointed by the Colonial Secretary for "whitewashing" purposes, and not in the interests of South Africa.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: To which Commission is the hon. Member referring?

MR. MARKHAM said he was referring to all of them, but particularly the Concessions Commission. It was a remarkable fact that the Colonial Secretary, not being content with the dissatisfaction caused throughout South Africa by the line taken with regard to another Commission, had on this Commission appointed a representative of Messrs Wernher, Beit, and Co. What interest could be served by appointing on a Commission of three members a gentleman in the employment of and directly connected with the firm of Messrs. Wernher, Beit and Company? He had no desire to shelter himself behind the privilege attaching to Members of the House, and he was perfectly willing to repeat out of doors, if called upon to do so, the statements he was about to make. It would be within the recollection of the House that it was only a few years ago that the Colonial Secretary alluded to the party of which he was so distinguished an ornament as a "celebrated gang of thieves and swindlers"; he (the speaker), however, was going to charge these men with being nothing more nor less than a common gang of thieves and swindlers. To be a celebrated thief or criminal was a matter of certain notoriety, but to be a common thief was a matter which surely would not commend itself to the attention of anyone. The Government had made appointments on these Commissions, and the Committee should judge whether or not they were in the public interest. The gentleman to whom the hon. Member objected in this instance was Mr. Loveday. He had nothing to say personally against Mr. Loveday, nor did he wish to throw any dirt upon him, but as this was the only opportunity he had of attacking the constitution of the Commission, he was obliged to bring Mr. Loveday's name into the matter. Mr. Loveday was a member of the firm of Messrs. Eckstein, otherwise Messrs. Wernher, Beit and Company, who were nothing more nor less than a common gang of thieves and swindlers. [Order, order!] Hon. Members cried "Order, order." He was prepared to stand an action in the law courts before a jury of his countrymen on that statement. He had already in the public press and in his own constituency made that accusation against Messrs. Barnato Brothers, but had not yet received a writ for libel. The fact he desired to bring before the Committee was that the representatives of these men held every position of importance throughout South Africa. Mr. Loveday was a director in the Pretoria Lighting Company, and the hon. Member for Warwick and Leamington on a previous occasion contradicted the statement that he was interested in the concessions.

Mr. LYTTELTON (Warwick and Leamington): May I ask what meaning the hon. Member attaches to the word "concessions"?

Mr. MARKHAM replied that in a book published by Mr. C. S. Goldman (who was connected directly with the firm of Messrs. Wernher, Beit and Company), it was stated that the Pretoria Lighting Company was a concession.

Mr. LYTTELTON said that was not quite an answer to his question. What was the meaning the hon. Gentleman himself attached to the word "concession"? There was a perfectly clear meaning to the word in the Transvaal.

Mr. MARKHAM said he was not there to go into the meaning of words, and referred the hon. Member to Johnson's Dictionary. He certainly knew the meaning himself perfectly well. Mr. Loveday was a director of this company, which had a concession from the late Transvaal Government. He was also a director of the Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Company, and a representative of Mr. Beit in that company. This company owned 2,357,549 acres of land in the Transvaal. Mr. Loveday appeared also as a director of the Eastleigh Mines, Limited, another worthless company, floated many times over. The Committee must quite understand that he did not accuse Mr. Loveday of being a dishonourable man.

An Hon. Member: You said he was a member of a firmof thieves and swindlers.

Mr. MARKHAM: I did not say he was a member of a firm of thieves and swindlers; I said he was a director of a company which Messrs. Eckstein, otherwise Wernher, Beit, and Co., controlled. That is a matter of great distinction. Continuing, the hon. Member said that when the Commission arrived at Cape Town it was met by Mr. Van Hulsteyn, the solicitor of Messrs. Wernher, Beit, and Co., who was immediately appointed to represent the Imperial Government at the sittings of the Commission. By some unknown influence Mr. Van Hulsteyn had been occupying a position in Government House, Cape Town, for which he was not paid. He was, however, paid by Messrs. Eckstein. What happened when the Commission arrived at Pretoria? According to the facts supplied to him, many of the concessions belonging to Messrs. Eckstein were not inquired into. The matter of concessions was one of the most important questions in the Transvaal. As he read the reference, the Concessions Commission was limited solely to the concessions given directly by the late Transvaal Government. But the most important concessions in Swaziland, nearly all belonging to Messrs. Eckstein, were not inquired into at all, though they were registered in the South African Republic, and also approved of before being registered by the late Transvaal Government. Everything of any note in Swaziland had been ceded by concession-mongers to Messrs. Eckstein. The king in that country, and his advisers, became drunkards and dissolute beings, and these concession-mongers went from all parts of Africa to obtain concessions, and yet this Commission had taken absolutely no notice of most of those concessions. There were many matters in connection with South Africa and with this Commission he should like to bring forward, but he would not be in order in so doing. The proceedings of the Commission were, however, reported in a paper called *The Friend of the Free State*, and therefore he would be in order in referring to what happened at Bloemfontein. On the arrival of the Army at Bloemfontein, the military authorities seized the printing plant of *The Friend of the Free State*. Shortly afterwards, Messrs. Wernher, Beit and Company obtained control of that paper. No public tenders were called for, and it was the only paper allowed by the authorities to appear in the colony and north of the colony. Why was it Messrs. Eckstein obtained control of that paper? Why was it given to them without any public tenders being called for? It was to their interest to acquire that paper, which they did. He was debarred from dealing with some of these questions, but he wished to say a word or two in this connection. He would read an extract from one of Mr. Eckstein's own papers, which stated—

> "The fact of Mr. Phillip's admission into the firm of Messrs. Wernher, Beit and Co. does not signify his withdrawal from the Rand in addition to his severance from Messrs. H. Eckstein and Co. Messrs. Wernher, Beit and Co. hold a large interest in the Rand through the Eckstein firm, and the change means merely his withdrawal from the 'Corner House' to join the larger firm."

If such a charge was made by an hon. Member of this House after due and careful consideration of the facts, were the Government going to persist in this policy of granting concessions and appointments to those who had done so much to bring about this unhappy war in South Africa? He believed that it was the wish of all sections in this House that there should be a pure administration in South Africa, but if the Colonial Secretary thought he was a match for Wernher, Beit, and Co., and their associated companies, he was very much mistaken. The right hon. Gentleman might be able to twist words into a form to misrepresent the views of his opponents——

*THE CHAIRMAN: I do not think that expression, applied to the right hon. Gentleman, is one that ought to be used.

MR. MARKHAM said he would withdraw the word "misrepresent," and as he was only a novice in Parliament he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would accept his apology. He would only say that the right hon. Gentleman was able to make black white, and white black. He wished to know why this course was persisted in by the Government in spite of the protests they had received from South Africa in regard to the appointments made. Hon. Members opposite might think he had got a crank in his head with regard to those appointments, but if that was their view it was for them to show that the statement was incorrect. He took his stand on the question of principle that the very men who brought about this war, and who had created this corrupt Government in the Transvaal from its commencement, were those men to whom he had referred. These were the "innocents" who went out to corrupt Mr. Kruger and his party. Corruption had followed on the methods those financiers adopted. The very future prosperity and happiness of that country depended upon the granting to the people of that equitable form of government against which one word could not be said, and by showing this favouritism they were going a very long way towards bringing this country into perpetual turmoil by appointing men who had not the confidence of the people in South Africa. He did not know whether he should be in order or not, but with the permission of the House he should like to give one example of the kind of roguery which had gone on in South Africa. He held in his hand a document which would send those directors, if they were in this country, into penal servitude for many years.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Does the hon. Member connect this in any way with the Commission? If he can he will be in order, but not otherwise.

MR. MARKHAM said the only way he could bring it in would be to show that Mr. Loveday was a co-director with a gentleman who was connected as a director with this company. This was one of the swindles which the British public had so long suffered under—the Barnato Consolidated Mines. It might interest the British public to know that though the mines had been dealt in to the extent of millions sterling, and represented millions sterling to-day, there was a secret clause in the Articles of Association which gave them, without the public knowing anything about it, 25 per cent. of all the profits the company made. These gentlemen put that into their pockets.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I fail to see what connection this has with the *personnel* of the Commission.

MR. MARKHAM said he would not pursue that point—except in the law courts, if those firms took him there. Unless they did so, the Government should not appoint any more of these firms' representatives directly or indirectly to any position of trust in South Africa. If the Government were prepared to undertake that, his object would be accomplished. He had no axe to grind; he was acting solely in the public interest.

With regard to the question of the settlement of soldiers on the land, he said there was only one Member of the House who had made attacks on the soldiers of the Empire on anonymous correspondence. That gentleman was the Colonial Secretary. [Oh, oh.] On anonymous correspondence the right hon. Gentleman had charged the soldiers of the Empire with being guilty of little less than murder. Let hon. Members read the book. [Cries of "Quote," and "What book?"] The right hon. Gentleman did not deny the accusation.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I cannot deny the statement, because I do not understand the allusion.

MR. MARKHAM said that on the 1st August, 1879—— [Cries of "Oh, oh!"] If the right hon. Gentleman the Colonia Secretary made a statement which was wrong then, it was just as wrong to make that statement in 1900. In that speech the right hon. Gentleman did attack the soldiers of the Empire. Upon that date he moved—

> "That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty praying Her Majesty to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire on the spot into the policy which had led to these and other wars in South Africa, and which has resulted in large annexations of territory and increase of responsibility, in spite of repeated protest from successive British Governments."

That was the motion made by the Colonial Secretary, and in his speech in support of that motion he quoted the case of the chief named Macomo, who had been declared to be a rebel, and against whom an expedition had been sent. Upon that occasion the right hon. Gentleman said—

> "No attempt was made by the Colonial authorities to reassure the chief (Macomo) or to settle the quarrel amicably, but a large armed force of 1,200 men, consisting of soldiers, free lancers, Fingoes, and others, went at night, burnt all his huts, shot down his people right and left, and carried off women and children to gaol."

The right hon. Gentleman further characterised the acts of the expedition as bloody, brutal, foul, barbarous murder, and further declared that "it was high time that the right name should be applied to an action which almost made a man ashamed to be an Englishman."[†]

*THE CHAIRMAN: This matter does not seem to be at all relevant. I invite the hon. Gentleman to address himself to the Vote before the Committee.

MR. MARKHAM said he did not wish to trespass further on the indulgence of the House, but if the Government persisted in this policy they would bring about incalculable harm to South Africa, and they would only be serving the interest of a clique, and not the higher and better interests of the people. [No, no.] If he was proved to be wrong in his statements he was prepared to pay, and pay substantially. He now contented himself by moving the reduction of the Vote by £200.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Item, Class 5, Vote 3, be reduced by £200, in respect of the Transvaal Concessions and Land Settlement Commissions."—(*Mr. Markham.*)

[†] The speech of Mr. Chamberlain referred to (1st August, 1879) is reported in *The Parliamentary Debates* [Third Series, Vol. ccxlviii., page 1853.]

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have listened to the hon. Member's speech with feelings of absolute despair of being able to comprehend the workings of the hon. Gentleman's mind. I hoped that I should come across some reason which would bear some distant reference to the Vote for the two Commissions, upon which Members of the House served, appointed to obtain information with reference to certain matters of considerable importance in South Africa. I learn from the speech of the hon. Gentleman that he views my proceedings and my character with much asperity.

MR. MARKHAM: Hear, hear.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Well, that again is not itself a conclusive argument against the composition of these Commissions. Then I learn from the hon. Gentleman—and this was a fact which he stated over and over and over again—that he was prepared to face a jury of his countrymen and to repeat outside the House certain statements which he made inside the House. That is very interesting, although it is a kind of bravery which I do not put very high. It must, I think, be rather painful to the House that the privileges of the House should be taken advantage of in order to use such extremely violent and strong language with regard to persons who cannot defend themselves.

MR. MARKHAM said he did not wish to be misrepresented.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The hon. Gentleman would, I think, have done better if, instead of saying in this House, as a preliminary of the campaign which he apparently is going to conduct, that Messrs. Eckstein, Wernher, Beit and Co. were common thieves and swindlers, and that Messrs. Barnato and Company—I do not know the names of these companies, but I understood him to say that the firm of Barnato Brothers or the Barnato Consolidated Mine were also common thieves and swindlers—if, before saying that in this House, he had written it outside the House. We should then have known what all this professed anxiety to meet in the law courts meant; but to say it in this House and afterwards outside is a very small foundation upon which to found a suit for libel. If the hon. Gentleman has these opinions, let him by all means put them in writing outside the House and let him challenge those persons to prosecute. But, granted for the sake of argument that the charges are true, what on earth has that to do with these two Commissions—the Commission for inquiring into certain concessions granted by the Transvaal Government and the Commission to inquire into the possibility of settling upon the land in South Africa British subjects? The last words of the hon. Gentleman were that when he had been summoned before a jury of his countrymen, and come off with flying colours, then he hoped that we should not persist in a policy which was ruining South Africa. How on earth is the appointment of these Commissions going to ruin South Africa? There is absolutely no relevance whatever between the speech of the hon. Gentleman and the motion before the Committee. Now, really the one pin's point upon which his argument is based is his statement that as regards one of the Commissions we have appointed a gentleman to whom he takes exception, because, he says, he was indirectly or directly connected with a firm which was connected with Wernher, Beit and Company.

MR. MARKHAM: No; Eckstein.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Which is connected with Eckstein—it is one further off than I thought—which is connected with Wernher, Beit and Company, who he is going to prove are swindlers when they summon him before a jury of his countrymen. It is upon that he has based this tremendous indictment of the South African policy of the Government—it is upon the connection of one member of the Transvaal Concessions Commission. The hon. Gentleman makes it another point of grievance against the Government that the reference to the Commission was not wide enough and did not cover the concessions in Swaziland. That is perfectly true, because a great number of those concessions go back some time and have nothing whatever to do with the immediate point we wish information upon, which is the value of the concessions given by the Transvaal Government; and up to the present time we have not assumed any authority in Swaziland. We have not annexed Swaziland. But, as no doubt the question of the future of Swaziland will shortly become one of importance, the hon. Gentleman may take it from me that the concessions in Swaziland will also have to be inquired into.

Mr. MARKHAM: By the same people?

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I do not know whether they will be inquired into by the same people; but I am certain they could not be inquired into by people more qualified than the particular Commission that was asked to examine into the limited question of the value and legality of the concessions which have been granted by the Transvaal. The concessions we have in view were known to all Members of the House. There were complaints made before the war by Uitlanders and others. It was said, for instance, that the dynamite concession was an illegal concession. That was alleged by a committee which was appointed by the Transvaal Government to inquire into the Transvaal concessions. The dynamite concession was perhaps one of the most important concessions. There was the concession to the Netherlands Railway Company, another concession which required inquiry. There was the concession to the Selati Railway Company, which has been the subject of inquiry in Belgium; and there were scores of concessions forming monopolies the legality of which it was desired to inquire into. It was desired also to inquire into the *bona fides* of persons who held shares in these concessions, and how far, even if the concession itself was void from some illegality, it would be equitable to respect the rights of persons who might have become shareholders in the concessions in a perfectly fair and legitimate manner. That was the object of this Commission; and the House will see that it is one of the very greatest importance to us, and that it is to the interest of the Government that every concession that is illegal should be exposed, because if it is illegally and wrongfully granted it may be possible for us to dispute it, and, of course, the funds which will thereby fall to the credit of the Transvaal Colony will be of the greatest advantage in the future administration of the State.

We appointed to that Commission, in the first place, as chairman, my hon. and learned friend the Member for Warwick. The hon. Member for the Mansfield Division, in a sort of universal condemnation of everybody concerned, found a supposed connection between Mr. Loveday and Wernher, Beit, and Company. Does the hon. Member attach any portion of his condemnation to the hon. Member for Warwick? My hon. friend requires no defence from me in this House. The second member of the Commission was a valued and valuable member of the Colonial Service, Mr. Ashmore, who had been the Treasurer in Cyprus, a man of most undoubted integrity, of special ability, and of special capacity to deal with the kind of financial subjects which were likely to be brought before the Commission. Is anything said against him, or his honour, or capacity? I am here to defend him. When we had appointed those two gentlemen here, we asked Sir Alfred Milner to nominate someone of authority, of capacity, of local knowledge, who could be adjoined to those two gentlemen and who could assist in the inquiry which we were about to make; and it was in consequence of that that Mr. Loveday was suggested and appointed. I know of nothing, and I challenge the hon, Member, instead of making these very vague accusations, to give something more of a definite shape—I challenge the hon. Gentleman to produce, in this House or out of it, anything which is to the discredit of Mr. Loveday. At all events, I know nothing of that kind. Sir Alfred Milner knows nothing of that sort. As far as we know, he is an honourable man, who is entitled to the position we gave him. Is really every man in the world to be considered as dishonourable, to be spoken of in company with persons who are described as common thieves and swindlers, because, forsooth, he happens to be, or to have been at one time or another, connected with some South African speculation, or with some of those engaged in South African speculation? I think that on a previous occasion I heard the hon. Gentleman say that, although he had sold his shares, he had been at one time interested in South African speculation. No one is going to blame him for that; but surely, if that is the case, he must have been in this indirect way connected with some of these firms.

MR. MARKHAM: I never have.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I accept the hon. Gentleman's statement. If so, he must have been connected with other capitalist firms.

MR. MARKHAM: No, never.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Pardon me; the hon. Gentleman does not understand. I understood him to say, and upon that I am basing my observations and argument, that he had been at one time a shareholder in some of these South African speculations and mines.

MR. MARKHAM: A capitalist and holding capital is a very different thing.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I never referred to him as a capitalist.

MR. MARKHAM: No; being connected with capitalists.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: If the hon. Gentleman has been at any time a co-shareholder with any of these capitalists, either with Wernher, Beit and Company, or Eckstein or Barnato, or any other of these gentlemen, he is open to precisely the same charge he is bringing against Mr. Loveday. As far as I know, as far as any information which is in my possession goes, the connection, if there was any connection, between Mr. Loveday and these firms was no more direct than such a connection as I have supposed to exist, on his own statement, between the hon. Gentleman and the company of which he was a shareholder.

I wish to say at once that, while most certainly I have not allowed myself in any way to be influenced by what is called the capitalist element of South Africa—I do not know these gentlemen, I hardly know one of them even by sight; it did not happen to me in my way of business to come into any communication with them; they do not come to me upon these matters, and I doubt whether there is any man in this House who really knows less of them than I do—but, while I am not going to allow myself to be influenced by them in the policy which I shall recommend to my colleagues or which the Government will adopt, on the other hand, I do say that I am not going to be precluded from using in any position in South Africa or in this country any man who happens to have been at some time or other connected with some capitalist or another in South Africa. If I were to make such a self-denying ordinance as that, to begin with, I should be cutting myself out from all possibility of gaining the assistance for the Empire in what may still be a very difficult task of the men of the greatest capacity, the greatest energy, and the greatest zeal, and, I need not say, the greatest public spirit, in South Africa. One cannot make such a general statement as that. If the hon. Member knows anything which is really to the discredit of any person who has been appointed either by me or by Sir Alfred Milner, either to a Commission in this country or to any post in the administration in South Africa, and if he will bring that knowledge before me, I will promise him to have the closest investigation made into the matter; and, if I find his statement to be true, most certainly such person shall be dismissed from that position. But I will not consider it to be a charge that a man has been connected with one of these large firms in South Africa, with whom probably everybody in South Africa has been connected—I will not allow that to be considered a fatal charge which prevents his being employed in any position.

Another charge has been brought against Mr. Loveday by the hon. Gentleman which might be considered by some to be even more serious—namely, that he was a burgher, a Boer, and was actually fighting a short time ago against the British forces. That has not prevented me from appointing him in the belief that he was the best man, and the man most capable of giving the requisite information in this case. But I think this is a clear proof that it was not our friends we were trying to advantage in the matter, and that we were seeking from, in fact, the whole populations of South Africa the best men we could find. The hon. Gentleman, who sees Wernher, Beit and Company everywhere, made an allusion to a paper which he says was purchased by Messrs. Eckstein or controlled by Messrs. Eckstein.

MR. MARKHAM: It was acquired by them.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I accept the word—a paper that was acquired by them. What on earth has that to do with these Commissions, and why should not Messrs. Eckstein acquire a paper if they desire to do so? What business is it of ours who acquires a paper? There are some papers that I would not buy at any price, but if I did buy them I should not think it was the business of this House to complain. I again call the attention of the House to the enormity of the charges which have been brought by the hon. Gentleman, and the extreme slenderness of the base upon which these charges rest. All I say is that, so far as I know, there is not a single word in the statement of the hon. Gentleman against the personal character of any of the five men who have been appointed on these two Commissions. If the hon. Gentleman has a different opinion, I call upon him for facts, and not mere statements and indirect insinuations which other people have brought, and of whom I know nothing.

MR. MARKHAM: The right hon. Gentleman has made white appear black, and black white, as I said he would do. [HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!] What I say is, that when the Army appeared at Bloemfontein Messrs. Eckstein suddenly appeared as proprietors of the paper, and that no public tenders had been called for it.

MR. MALCOLM (Suffolk, Stowmarket): I rise to a point of order. I ask whether this subject is relevant to the motion before the Committee.

*THE CHAIRMAN: It does not appear to be relevant.

MR. MARKHAM: The right hon. Gentleman has referred to my position as being a shareholder, and with the permission of the Committee I would like to point out that, being in business myself, and not having passed from the stage of being a business man to that of a diplomatist like the right hon. Gentleman—[Cries of "Order, order!"]—a shareholder is not in the same position as a man who is an alternate director, acting as the representative of Messrs. Eckstein. [HON. MEMBERS: Yes.] Well, if they do, I am sorry for their business capabilities.

*MR. LYTTELTON: I certainly do not think it necessary to defend myself against the charge of being a capitalist. [Cries of "There was no charge."] I rise simply for the purpose of saying two or three words with regard to my friend Mr. Loveday, with whom I have been associated for four months, whom I believe to be one of the best and most honourable of men, and whom I know to be absolutely incapable of anything but the most straightforward and honourable action in public affairs. The hon. Member interpolated a statement that he did not wish to make any charge against Mr. Loveday. His words were that he did not wish to throw dirt at Mr. Loveday. Then what was his object in making that speech? Does he suggest that Mr. Loveday is improperly under the influence of Messrs. Eckstein? [Cries from the Government Benches of "Answer."]

MR. MARKHAM: I will consider that.

*MR. LYTTELTON: Does the hon. Member intend, or does he not intend, to convey to the Committee that Mr. Loveday was under the improper influence of Messrs. Eckstein? If he does not intend to convey that to the Committee, then his observations were irrelevant and impertinent. But if the hon. Member has not the courage to say in this House whether he intends to make that charge, but shelters himself behind one of those generalities, unfortunately too common nowadays, of desiring "not to throw dirt," then I must suppose that the hon. Member was neither irrelevant nor impertinent, but that he was merely inaccurate, and that he did make a charge, and that the purport of his words was in truth and in fact that Mr. Loveday was under the improper influence of Messrs. Eckstein. Let me examine that. It is perfectly true that Mr. Loveday was a director of the Electric Lighting Company of Pretoria. Is everybody who is a director of a company in which another person has an interest under the improper influence of that person? I think not. But I have better evidence in regard to this matter in favour of Mr. Loveday than that. Mr. Loveday was a director of the Pretoria Water Company, in which Messrs. Eckstein had a large interest. The question of the validity of that concession came up long before the Commission got to South Africa—I think it was in 1898—and Mr. Loveday, notwithstanding that he was supposed by the hon. Gentleman, in his ignorance, to be under the influence of Messrs. Eckstein, was the prime mover in the Volksraad of the Transvaal in procuring the cancellation of the concession. The hon. Gentleman opposite bows his head, so that he knew that.

MR. MARKHAM assented.

*MR. LYTTELTON: What does the Committee think of the candour of the hon. Member who comes to this House and accuses Mr. Loveday, who was doing honourable service in the Transvaal long before the hon. Member was ever heard of——

MR. MARKHAM: There was no concession at all.

*MR. LYTTELTON: There was a concession. What does the House think of the candour of the hon. Member making such a charge against an honourable man as that he is under the improper influence of Messrs. Eckstein, and not disclosing to the House the fact, which he knows, that Mr. Loveday's exertions were devoted to procuring the cancellation of the concession in which Messrs. Eckstein were primarily interested? I speak with no warmth about myself. I can well afford to pass by the observations of the hon. Gentleman. I am satisfied that no such charges as have been made against this Commission, over which I have the honour to preside, would have been made except by a new Member, and I grant to the hon. Gentleman the indulgence for which he so repeatedly craved, and which is always extended to new Members for having done so.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland Division) said he understood this Vote referred to the mission of the hon. Member for West Belfast to South Africa. It was somewhat remarkable that the Committee should be asked to vote money for a Commission before any Report had been presented by it, or any statement made by the hon. Gentleman who was a member of it. He had seen no Report, public or private, as to what the hon. Member for West Belfast had done in South Africa. He understood the hon. Gentleman took some evidence, but none of that evidence was before the House, and it seemed to him very extraordinary that in these circumstances they should be asked to vote this money. He was entitled to express surprise because this was a question on which, as an Irishman, he felt very strongly. He understood that the object of the hon. Gentleman was to promote something of the nature of what was called in the history of Ireland "the plantation of Ulster"—the plantation of the land of the Boers by people from this country. He did not know how far he would be entitled to discuss the merits of such a policy on this Vote, but he might say that, if there was any tragic page in the history of Ireland which was stained with war, bloodshed, and fury more than another, it was the record of the confiscation of the lands of the original inhabitants and the plantation of them by people of another race and religion. He pressed upon the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary not to make the task of the settlement of the Transvaal and the Orange River Colonies more difficult by introducing into them a people of foreign origin or by adopting a policy of confiscation and spoliation. He had not been in South Africa himself, but he had spoken to many gentlemen who had been there, and he was informed that the portion of country over which the hon. Member for West Belfast had conducted his investigations was not eminently suited for the settlement of men of a new race. The life there must be pastoral, and any men that we could send out from this country would find it absolutely intolerable. Therefore he called upon the right hon. Gentleman to utter a warning to the many thousands of people in this country who were contemplating going to these new States, that they would not find in the pastoral districts a favourable sphere for their energies or the investment of their capital.

SIR J. FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.), on a point of order, said that an Amendment had already been moved on this Vote, and it did not seem to him to be a very convenient course to begin debate on a new subject until that Amendment had been disposed of.

*THE CHAIRMAN: If the right hon. Gentleman will look at the Paper he will find on page 4 that the Section begins "O.—Transvaal Concessions and Land Settlement Commissions." What has fallen from the hon. Gentleman is pertinent to that section, and therefore it can be raised on the Amendment before the Committee.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I can satisfy the hon. Member in a very few sentences. In the first place, I express surprise at his surprise that the Vote appears in this form before the Report of the Commission has been issued. It is a most common occurrence, when the work of a Commission extends over a considerable period, that a Vote should be taken for their expenses, and that is the case here.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: I am quite willing to defer discussion if the opportunity will come later on.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The hon. Gentleman cannot discuss his particular point now. We are not considering the policy of the Commission—that will come on at a later date. In a case of this kind we sent out a Commission of Inquiry, and we shall have to consider whether the evidence and Report shall be published. Of course, they will be published if we proceed upon them; but the matter must be considered along with Sir Alfred Milner. I think it may relieve the mind of the hon. Member if I say that there is no intention on the part of the Government to repeat the experiment of "the plantation of Ulster," whatever we may do.

SIR JOHN BRUNNER (Cheshire, Northwich) said that he understood some one had procured the concession from the Transvaal Government for the supply of water and gas to Pretoria, and he wanted to know who was in possession of that concession now.

AN HON. MEMBER: "A concession" for waterworks.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! This concession has nothing to do with the Vote under discussion.

SIR JOHN BRUNNER: I always endeavour to keep in order. We all know that when a concession is given, it is merely handed over to another party at a big profit. What I want to know is, who is in possession now of the waterworks concession.

MR. LYTTELTON: Exclusive powers were granted to concessionaires in 1897, and the Committee of the Volksraad cancelled these exclusive powers in 1898. The suggestion of the Committee of the Volksraad was that a valuation of the concession to the waterworks company should be made, and that the power of supplying water to Pretoria should be entrusted to the municipality.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE asked whether it would not be in order, in discussing the recommendations of the Commission for settling soldiers in the Transvaal, to discuss the policy of appointing that Commission at all.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Certainly anything as to the appointment and *personnel* of the Commission would be in order.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Or the desirability of appointing the Commission at all?

*THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. DALY (Monaghan, S.) said that it seemed to him that £7,800 was a very large sum for the Committee to vote without any statement being made with regard to it, and he was not inclined to allow the Vote to pass without opposition. He could not see that much trouble would arise if this matter was postponed until the details were before the House, and he thought that, if it was desired that the wheels of Parliament should revolve more freely, the Government would be well advised to postpone this Vote until such time as the details were available. If the Vote was allowed to pass on this occasion, the Committee would have no further opportunity of discussing the matter, therefore their only opportunity was to inquire now closely into the way in which the money had been spent. The statement which had been made with regard to this matter had been satisfactory to nobody. He, personally, had never before heard so laboured a statement. He had been absolutely amazed at the crudeness of the speech of the right hon. Gentleman, who had asked the House to pass this Vote without giving any explanation whatever. The point the House desired to know was what the concessions were. The right hon. Gentleman surely did not think the House was so simple as to pass this amount of money without knowing what the concessions were in Part 2, which had reference to the possibility of settling soldiers in South Africa. He did not approve of large sums like this being voted upon such meagre information as had been given to the House. If the right hon. Gentleman saw his way to explain this matter fully, it might be possible to get the Vote through, but in the absence of any explanation he did not think hon. Members would be justified in passing the Vote, and he should certainly oppose it.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said the Committee was very often called upon to vote money for Commissions and matters of that kind before the Reports of the Commissions were published. But with regard to other Commissions, half the evidence had usually been published, either in the newspapers or in the House; whereas in this case they had no information, either in the papers or otherwise. The question he wished to put was whether any evidence had been taken by the Commission, and if so, when it was likely to be printed, and whether it was complete. If it was, it was quite time that the Report should have been published. He had great doubts as to the wisdom of the policy of appointing this Commission at all. It would only exasperate the Boers, and lead them to protract the war to the utmost. All sorts of reports had been circulated among them, and on the top of all these was this Commission appointed to consider whether we could not settle troops in South Africa. Before we could give the farms to our troops somebody would have to be expatriated, and he could only condemn the unwisdom of appointing a Commission which would give the Boers the idea that our object in prosecuting this war was not to give equal rights to all, but to obtain not only the gold mines but the country as well. Hon. Members had probably, like himself, read articles which distinctly recommended that, the Boers having now practically become rebels, their farms should be forfeited and given to the Yeomanry. If there was anything calculated to keep the Boers in arms it was such a thing as this. If they were under the impression that their farms would be taken away and given to the English troops, he ventured to say that even a nation of arrant cowards would fight to the last kopje before they would give in. The appointment of the Commission was one of those foolish things which had been done first of all to lead to the war, and afterwards to prolong and embitter it. As the result of this policy there, no doubt, would be the idea in the minds of the Boers that there would be a Cromwellian settlement all over the country. If that was so, it would be the result of the official acts of this country. He believed the right hon. Gentleman was fully convinced of the unwisdom of his act, although, no doubt, when he entered upon it he thought the Boer war was over, and now the Commission had come over and had said that the whole thing was impossible. He was perfectly convinced that this Commission would cost not only the amount of the Vote—£7,800—but millions of money, as it would make the

Boers fight to the last. There was no one more responsible for prolonging the war than the right hon. Gentleman himself. He (Mr. Lloyd-George) should support the motion for reduction.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN moved, "That the Question be now put." At the same moment MR. MARKHAM rose.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Does the hon. Member wish to withdraw his Amendment?

MR. MARKHAM: Yes, Sir. The hon. Member, continuing, said that he had no desire to make an attack on the hon. and learned Member for Warwick.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I wish to ask you, Sir, whether, the closure having been moved and accepted, the hon. Member is entitled to withdraw his motion.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is entitled to say why he wishes to withdraw it.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: But you had accepted the closure.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member evidently expected me to accept it. I call upon Mr. Markham.

MR. MARKHAM said that it was his last wish to cast any reflections, either directly or indirectly, upon the conduct of the hon. Member for Warwick. With regard to Mr. Loveday, he did not accuse him nor make any charge whatsoever against him. With the permission of the Committee, therefore, he would withdraw his Amendment. [Nationalist cries of "No, no."] Then he might be permitted to say that, so far as he was concerned, in case it should be taken as casting an imputation upon the conduct of the hon. Member for Warwick, he should take no part in the division.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Then, Sir, I move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 195; Noes, 93. (Division List No. 72.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus H. Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Col. Montagu
Brown, Geo. M. (Edinburgh)
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colston, Charles E. H. Athole
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow
Cox, Irwin E. Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, H. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Dewar, T. R. (T'r H'ml'ts, S. Geo.
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Faber, George Denison
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward A.
Foster, Sir M. (London Univ.)
Garfit, William
Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.
Gordon, Hn J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Sir E W (B'ry S Edm'nds
Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hain, Edward
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (Mid'x
Hamilton, Marq of (L'nd'nderry
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. W.
Harris, F. L. (Tynemouth)
Harwood, George
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath, James (Staffords., N. W.
Helder, Augustus
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hoare, Edw Brodie (Hampstead
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, Capt J (Kent, Faversh.
Hudson, George Bickersteth

Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Laurie, Lieut-General
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverp'l)
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Markham, Arthur Basil
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
Morgan, David J. (Walthamst.
Morgan, Hn. Fred, (Monm'thsh.
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Partington, Oswald
Pemberton, John S. G.
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Reid, James (Greenock)
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Saunderson, Rt Hn. Col. Edw. J.
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, HC (North'um. Tynes'de
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Cl. Sir C. E. H (Sheffield
Walker, Col. Wm. Hall
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt. Col. A. C. E. (Tauntn
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-u.-Lyne
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Barlow, John Emmott
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bell, Richard
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burt, Thomas
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Daly, James
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Dunn, Sir William
Emmott, Alfred
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Hammond, John
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Holland, William Henry
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, William (Carnarvons.)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kitson, Sir James
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Kenna, Reginald
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Murphy, J.
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rigg, Richard
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thomas, A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, J. A. (Glam., Gower
Thompson, E. C. (Monaghan, N.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Captain Donelan and Mr.
Patrick O'Brien.

Question, "That the Item, Class 5, Vote 3, be reduced by £200, in respect of the Transvaal Concessions and Land Settlement Commissions," put accordingly, and negatived.

Original Question again proposed.

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present. House counted; and, forty Members being found present—

BRITISH EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) said the British East African Protectorate had a finance of the strangest description. It was, he believed, the only subject on the Civil Service Estimates in regard to which there was always a Supplementary Estimate, and that Supplementary Estimate generally largely exceeded in amount the original Estimate for the year. That made this Protectorate unique in its finance. That it was no exaggeration to say there was always a Supplementary Estimate was shown by the fact that there were two Estimates each year in 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, and also this year. Financial purists who objected to Supplementary Estimates would find this case certainly by far the strongest that existed in the Estimates, and doubtless notice would be taken of it. Different reasons were given in different years by the Foreign Office for the Supplementary Estimate. Sometimes the Committee were frankly told that it was in consequence of deficiency on revenue, and at other times, as on the present occasion, that it was due to wars. But each year when the Appropriation accounts appeared there was always a muddle of the finances of the protectorate—wars, the ordinary pay and upkeep of the troops in time of peace, police, justice, charges which ought really to appear in the Uganda Railway Vote, telegraph charges —all were muddled together in the most inextricable fashion, and he was afraid that those accounts had hardly justified in past years the particular explanations which had been given of the Supplementary Estimates. In 1900 there was a very large Supplementary Estimate, mostly accounted for by wars, and the then Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs promised that there would be a very great reduction in the Estimates this year. As the Committee could see, however, by the large Supplementary Vote now before them, and the ordinary Vote in the Estimates, the promise had not been kept. The explanation was that the Foreign Office had been carrying on officially and publicly two wars, and, he believed, a third war had, as a matter of fact, been raging, but of that the Committee had no information. The Appropriation Accounts showing the allocation in past years of the two Votes—the Supplementary and the ordinary—for this protectorate brought together a most curious collection of items, including compensation to slave-owners. He mentioned that in case the Under Secretary of State could give the Committee any information in regard to it.

This protectorate presented the very worst specimen of either colonial or protectorate finance appearing in the Accounts. Even Uganda, which had had a curious financial history, had not involved this constant supremacy of the Supplementary over the ordinary Estimate. The wars to which the excesses were attributed were conducted by an Office, the real duty of which was not to carry on wars, but to conduct the diplomatic and consular business of the country. The better one thought of the Foreign Office, the more fit one thought it was for its task, the less one wished that it should have this sort of business on its hands. The foreign affairs of this country were sufficiently complicated, and the demands on the attention of the Foreign Office in regard to China and other parts of the world were quite enough, without that Office being called upon either to administer protectorates or to engage armies and carry on wars. There was nothing in which this country differed more from every other country than in the fact that here we had Colonial Office armies, Foreign Office armies, the Indian Army employed in Africa, and a medley of troops and war expenditure charged on the Civil Service Estimates—all entirely outside the control of the War Office, both as regards the command and the composition of the forces. The Foreign Office could not provide generals, but had to hire its troops, to some extent, and its officers, very largely, from the War Office and the India Office to carry on these wars, with the result that there were these Supplementary Estimates year after year. The concealment, both of the finance and of the wars, was very considerable. The country was not allowed the ordinary sources of information. Those who served the Foreign Office on that coast were not permitted to make any statement as to what was passing, and very little indeed was known in this country as to what really did occur. In the past the country had gradually become aware of much that passed on that coast; in the course of time people heard the details of the wars, and of the troubles which led to those wars, from two sources—the Primitive Methodist missionaries and the Church of England missionaries in East Africa.

He desired to ask the Under Secretary of State whether he was able to report to the House any change in the views of the Government as to the future of this strip of territory? Might the country look to the Foreign Office contemplating the possibility of divesting themselves of the control and the government of this land? The original reasons given for the Foreign Office holding such places at all was that complications might arise with other countries. But there was much less risk nowadays of complications with foreign countries on the British East African coast than in almost any other part of the world in which this country was interested. Sir Arthur Hardinge, having received the promotion he deserved, had been replaced by another officer in chief command. Sir Arthur Hardinge held very peculiar views, which he frankly stated both publicly and privately. The Committee desired to know, with regard to the future of this territory, what chance there was that the promises by which the Government were supposed to be bound, under the advice of Sir Arthur Hardinge, would be gradually got rid of. In British East Africa we were supposed to be obliged to tolerate an exceptional condition of affairs, in order to avoid risings and petty wars. We had recognised the institution of slavery to a degree in which we had never recognised it in any other part of the world, and had been told this was necessary to avoid troubles with Arab chiefs. But risings had not been avoided, year by year the Committee were asked to vote large sums of money—£200,000, £300,000, and sometimes £400,000—for these wretched little wars with the very Arab chiefs who were supposed to be conciliated by the promises which had been made. He had always denied that any promise had been made which was different from the ordinary pledges which had been given over and over again, and which were not supposed to commit us to any recognition of slavery. The promise which was made when we took over the government, not by anyone sent out from home, but by a junior officer in the Navy who became Prime Minister to the Sultan of Zanzibar, was that for the future we would observe the laws and customs of the country. Such promises had been made hundreds of times in India, but had never been supposed to commit us to a recognition—certainly not for a prolonged period—of the status of slavery. The Secretary of State, who was supposed to have authorised the promise, had stated publicly that he had never intended such a promise to be made, or one in any way committing us as to the future. The facts that had been revealed from time to time as to the slavery in the protectorate were such that he asked whether the time had not now come when the Government could give some pledge as to the future. If we were not able to avoid these worrying little wars, involving the payment of such large sums of money, at all events we should abolish the legal status of slavery in British East Africa as we had abolished it in every other part of the Empire. In order to get a statement from the Under Secretary of State he moved to reduce the Vote by £1,000.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Item, Class 5, Vote 2, be reduced by £1,000, in respect of British East Africa."—(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Viscount CRANBORNE, Rochester), who was very imperfectly heard in the gallery, was understood to express the opinion that the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean was over-suspicious with regard to the Supplementary Estimate under discussion. The right hon. Gentleman had said that various excuses were put forward year after year, and he apparently had no very great confidence that the reasons put forward for the extra expenditure altogether corresponded to the facts.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: They are not complete.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: Personally, I am not conscious of any incompleteness. The right hon. Gentleman had a very great experience of public affairs, and the noble Lord confessed that his suspicious attitude made him somewhat uncomfortable as to how affairs were arranged in the older days. On the present occasion he came before the Committee quite frankly, without any *arrière pensee* whatever, and asked that they should find the money necessary for the particular war we had undertaken in East Africa. Before going into the particulars of that expedition, however, he would refer briefly to the general matters about which the right hon. Gentleman had spoken. Those matters were, if he might say so, entirely irrelevant to the Vote before the Committee, because money was taken only for the particular subject referred to.

The right hon. Gentleman had said that the finance of the protectorate was always in the greatest confusion; that the expedients adopted by the Foreign Office were almost chaotic in their character; and that troops were borrowed from anywhere to carry on these wars. It was perfectly true that one part of the British Empire went to another part to obtain assistance, but that was one of the great advantages of belonging to a great organisation like the British Empire—that one part could help another. But it was not at all the fact that the Foreign Office authorities had nothing to rely upon themselves. There were a series of bodies of troops, some in Central Africa, some in Uganda, and some in British East Africa, and before long there would be some in Somaliland also. The right hon. Gentleman stated that no information was given to the House of Commons as to what occurred in this protectorate. The reason so little was heard of these small expeditions was that in the midst of all the great events of the British Empire they were really of only slight public interest. What was it that gave the House and the country information as to the war in South Africa? It was the presence of special correspondents on the spot. Would anybody suggest that any of our great newspapers would be well-advised in sending special correspondents to watch these punitive expeditions? Of course they would not, and consequently that great source of information was not available. The same amount of secrecy as was undoubtedly necessary in foreign affairs was not requisite in regard to these expeditions, and the right hon. Gentleman had only to place questions on the Paper; he would find no reluctance on the part of the Foreign Office to reply fully. The only reason Papers had not been laid on the Table concerning affairs in East Africa was that the information was not yet complete, and, considering the small amount of matter in hand, it was thought to be wiser to wait until full and complete despatches had been received. If, however, the Committee was very anxious about the matter, there probably would be no unwillingness to lay on the Table the incomplete papers.

The right hon. Gentleman had referred to the question of slavery, but that had nothing to do with this Vote, and the war which had been undertaken had nothing whatever to do with slavery. Slavery was a very important question; it had been debated over and over again in the House, the position of the Government had been several times stated, and he (the noble Lord) would be prepared to deal with the question on the proper occasion. The particular war in British East Africa to which the right hon. Gentleman had referred was in Jubaland, whereas the other had to do with Somaliland, and it was for these two wars that the Committee were asked to provide this money. The war in Jubaland had nothing to do with slavery, but, as so often happened, with a case of murder. The British Agent, Mr. Jenner, a most valuable public servant, had great sympathy with the people among whom he moved. He unfortunately had too much confidence in his influence over the people, and consequently trusted them in a way which was now a cause of regret. It appeared that he had some difference with a chief who was accused of complicity in a crime which had been committed a little while previously, and for which a certain amount of punishment had been imposed by Mr. Jenner. In consequence, this chief conceived a great hatred for Mr. Jenner, and, in concert with another chief, waited for a favourable opportunity for revenge. At the end of November, Mr. Jenner, with only a small escort, went up country for surveying purposes; he was followed and murdered. When a British officer in the execution of his duty was murdered, the first duty of the Government was to see that that murder was promptly avenged, and hence this expedition. The total force, when it moved off, numbered about 1,500 men. These troops took a little time to get together, as some had to be obtained from India, and then they had to be properly rationed, and everything else made ready. They marched some distance up the valley of the Juba, and then fifty-seven miles in a north-westerly direction, when they were suddenly attacked by Ogadens, and, as small expeditions go, a really sanguinary battle ensued. He was sorry to say that amongst those who were killed on the British side were Colonel Maitland and another officer. The difficulties of the country were very great. They could hear the enemy talking on each side of them, so close did they get to them without being seen. The flying column behaved admirably under such circumstances. They had not yet received the written reports from the officers in command in regard to what actually happened, and he anxiously awaited those reports, which would immediately be laid on the Table. With regard to the future, certain precautions were going to be taken, and if all went well there ought to be no more fighting. Of course it was impossible to make expeditions without paying for them, and the long and short of this Vote was that the Committee were now asked to vote the money for that purpose. It was an absolutely unexpected expedition which was forced upon the Government, and no amount of businesslike capacity on the part of the Foreign Office or on the part of the Colonial Office could have led them to foresee that Mr. Jenner would be murdered in November. Consequently, no amount of foresight could have avoided the expedition.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar): I wish to congratulate the noble Lord upon the very accurate knowledge which he appears to possess upon this subject. I agree with him to this extent—that a murder was committed of a British officer, and that entailed a punitive expedition, and that has been successful; but, unfortunately, it has entailed considerable loss on our side and on the other side. I do not think that the noble Lord representing the Foreign Office was entirely justified in putting aside the very pertinent remarks made by my right hon. friend. Though this Estimate may have been necessary, what we complain of is that, with the exception of the speech just made by the noble Lord, we have had no explanation of the circumstances which rendered this expenditure necessary. With these large amounts perpetually occurring the Government give us cause to complain that this country is put to large expense in regard to these protectorates, and we have no proper opportunity of controlling this expenditure. To that point the noble Lord made no reply at all. This is not only the case in regard to warlike operations, but also in regard to other matters. It is not in order now to discuss that unfortunate Uganda railway, but whether it is in regard to war or to railways the Government show the same unbusinesslike qualities which have followed their operations in British East Africa. I agree with the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean that the time has come when such questions as this should come under the control of the Colonial Office, and should not remain in the hands of the Foreign Office. It is clear that in the earlier stages of these spheres of influence and protectorates when they have to be delimitated they should be in the hands of the Foreign Office, but when there is no question of delimitation they should be under the control of the Colonial Office. I am not pressing the noble Lord to hand this over to the Colonial Office, because we had information given to us in regard to that Office last night which did not commend itself to my views at all. I think it must be acknowledged that the natural place for a colony is to be under the Colonial Office, and not the Foreign Office. The noble Lord declined to discuss a qusstion which I think is pertinent and of great importance, and that is the question in regard to the legal status of slavery in East Africa, which still remains.

*THE CHAIRMAN: As this money is only taken for a military expedition, a discussion of the legal status of slavery will not be in order.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: All I will say upon that point is that I hope the noble Lord will give this matter his best attention, and not be too much bound by the action of his predecessor. As regards this Supplementary Vote I shall not oppose it, but I hope the noble Lord will be able to look into the finances of British East Africa and see that these perpetual Votes are not so constantly recurring under his auspices.

*MR. M'KENNA (Monmouthshire, N.) said that if the noble Lord would turn to the last report of the Comptroller and Auditor General he would find that the accounts in previous years for this particular Vote had not been sent in with full details at all. A considerable number of vouchers had been lost, and the figures were merely reminiscent of what the facts might have been. He thought the whole question of the British Protectorate of East Africa could not be considered merely in the light of what it had cost in the present year. He proposed to recall to the mind of the Committee what were the hopes with which the Government went into British East Africa and how year after year those hopes had been falsified. They took over the territory in 1895, and the representative of the Foreign Office in this House at that time told the Committee that the estimated cost would be £30,000 a year. The Colonial Secretary also spoke at that time, and described this protectorate as a vast and fertile territory where we should ultimately establish the *Pax Britannica*, which would enable the people to live quietly together and engage in agricultural and other pursuits. He hoped this Committee before it sanctioned this Estimate would realise how far those hopes of successful agricultural pursuits and the establishment of the *Pax Britannica* had been justified by the course of events. In 1896 the original Estimate was £30,000, but the Supplementary Estimate for that year amounted to £20,975; in 1897 the original Estimate exceeded the former original Estimate and the Supplementary Estimate put together, for it amounted to £65,000, and this was followed by a Supplementary Estimate of £36,700. In the year 1898 the amount asked for was £75,000, and this was followed by yet another Supplementary Estimate of £35,000. In the year 1899 £90,000 was asked for, and this was followed by a Supplementary Estimate of £54,000. In the year 1900 the original Estimate was £99,000, to which was added a smaller Supplementary Estimate, this time of £11,000. In 1901 the original Estimate was £87,000, but the Supplementary Estimate which they were now discussing amounted to £140,000. Therefore, this country, which was to cost £30,000 a year, was costing £227,000 for this year alone, and every single year since England first took it over the original estimated cost had been enormously exceeded, and never less than doubled. In return for this expenditure the trade they got was nothing approaching the vast amount of money which had been expended in this protectorate. Every penny of these Supplementary Estimates had been voted not in the peaceful development of the country; not to establish the *Pax Britannica*, but in carrying war into the homes of the natives. Were they wise in continuing a policy which had falsified every one of their hopes and belied all their calculations, and which had shown every official prophecy on the subject to have been wrong? Mr. Jenner had been killed, and it was the duty of the British Government to take such measures as were necessary to secure the safety of the British Residents there in the future. But the point to be considered was, in his opinion, whether they were wise in sending British Residents into those territories at all, for the cost of protecting them there far exceeded anything which they might expect to get in return. If his right hon. friend proceeded to a division he should certainly support him in the Lobby. They were having these unexpected and unexplained Estimates hurled at their heads too often. The hon. Member for Poplar had shown that this result was mostly due to placing the control and management of these protectorates in the hands of a Department which was not suited for the work. Was it wise, prudent, or businesslike to take the administration of these territories out of the hands of the Department which possessed trained people to do that particular work? He remembered that the present Secretary of State for War promised the House he would not have a Supplementary Estimate this year for Uganda. He was able to do so with confidence, because, as has since appeared, he knew that the Foreign Office Army was fully occupied elsewhere. Evidently, the Foreign Office meant to show that they could have their little wars as well as the Colonial Office.

MR. J. P. FARRELL said that the part of the Empire which he represented would not be benefited by the expenditure of these enormous sums for this most unfortunate expedition. He did not know of a single case where the loss of one life had cost so much to the country. This officer went into that country without escort and without any military protection, knowing that his life was in danger, and he undertook this survey and was murdered by this chief who had vindictive feelings towards him. The result was this punitive expedition, and because one British official had lost his life some forty troops had been killed or wounded on our side and some 400 of the enemy had been destroyed. No less than 400 people had been killed in order to avenge the death of one officer, and the sum of £140,000 had been placed upon the taxes of this country. He could not congratulate the Government upon this way of establishing the *Pax Britannica.* The country had been called the white man's grave, for it was very marshy, and malarial fever there was most deadly. What did England gain by all this? The hon. Gentleman who had just spoken had proved that in trade they received nothing like an adequate return for this expenditure. They must arrive at the conclusion that the policy of the Government in this respect had been extravagant and had not been successful, and instead of benefiting British trade it had been a great failure. He thought the claim that they should abandon such a policy was a reasonable and just one. In Ireland they got no benefit whatever, and this policy increased their taxes in a shocking and extravagant manner. The facts placed before the Committee that evening were startling in the highest degree. He had always understood that slavery was not tolerated in any country where the British flag floated, and yet it was admitted that slavery was in full force in this protectorate.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The question of slavery does not arise.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: They should have more information about the staff of officials than had been yet given to the Committee. It had been pointed out that the press of this country was not represented in these expeditions, and the public had to rely on officials for information. If all the information was to be judged by that supplied by the officials of this House, there was considerable room for improvement as to the truth of the facts furnished. If the Government were determined to carry on this system of throwing money into this bottomless hole of East Africa, they should give some information as to their policy; and special facilities should be afforded the Press to accompany the expeditions. There was no knowing what horrible cruelties were being perpetrated on both sides. What was the reason why a force of only 1,500 men cost £140,000? That seemed to be a very large sum. How long a period did it cover? The Irish people paid their share of this immense expenditure, but did not benefit in the slightest degree from these punitive expeditions, which indeed only added to their misfortunes. He hoped the right hon. the Member for Forest of Dean would press his motion to a division.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I appeal to the Committee to bring this branch of this discussion to a close as soon as possible, as there are other matters of great interest and importance with which the Committee very much desire to deal.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said they were dealing with the first item of this Vote, and he desired to ask, on a point of order, whether, when the first item was disposed of, they would be able to go on to the next.

*THE CHAIRMAN: That is so.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said he proposed to divide on this motion. The Chairman had ruled that on this occasion they could not deal with the question of the legal status of slavery in this Protectorate, but at the same time it would be in the minds of hon. Members that no pledge had been given by the Government on the subject.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): I think that we Irish Members on a question like this, involving so much money—

MR. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 204; Noes, 117. (Division List No. 73.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus H. Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Col. Henry
Bond, Edward
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Colston, Charles Edw. H. A.
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, Herbert S. (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, Sir Horatio D (Chatham
Dewar, T. R. (T'r H'mlets, S. Geo
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Durning-Lawrence Sir Edwin
Faber, George Denison
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Fitzroy, Hn. Edward Algernon
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Garfit, William
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Sir E W (B'ry S Edm'nds
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hain, Edward
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (Mid'x
Hamilton, Marq of (L'nd'nderry
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'd
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath, James (Staffords, N. W.
Helder, Augustus
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, Cpt. J. (Kent, Faversh.
Hutton, John (Yorks, N. R.)
Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir J. H.
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Lambton, Hon. Frederick W.
Laurie, Lieut-General
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Fred. N.S.
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S)
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinb., W.
M'Killop, Jas. (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Maxwell, W. J. H (Dumfriessh.
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robert Jasper (Shropsh.)
Morgan, David J. (Walthamst.
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin H. F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptf'd)
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Gilbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pemberton, John S. G.
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Saunderson, Rt. Hon. Col. E. J.
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, E.)
Smith, H. C (North'mb. Tynesd.
Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart

Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C E H (Sheffield
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Webb, Col. William George
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E (Tauntn
Whiteley, H (Ashton-und-Lyne
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh., N.
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, Charles P. (Glouc. Stroud
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Daly, James
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Dunn, Sir William
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Hammond, John
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Holland, William Henry
Jameson, Maj. J. Eustace
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kitson, Sir James
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Leamy, Edmund
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lloyd-George, David
Lundon, W.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Kenna, Reginald
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipp'r'ry, Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S,)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Reddy, M.
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C R (Northants
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, J A (Glamorg'n, Gower
Thompson, E. C. (Monaghan, N.
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Caine and Mr. Thomas Bayley.

Question put accordingly, "That the Item, Class 5, Vote 2, be reduced by £1,000, in respect of British East Africa."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 121; Noes, 212. (Division List No. 74.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, C. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Daly, James
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dewar, J. A. (Inverness-sh.)
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Dunn, Sir William
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Farrell, James Patrick

Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Holland, William Henry
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonsh.)
Jordon, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kitson, Sir James
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Leamy, Edmund
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Kenna, Reginald
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Reddy, M.
Redmond, William (Clare)
Reid,SirR. Threshie(Dumfries
Rigg, Richard
Roberts,John H. (Denbighsh.)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Capt.John (Forfarsh.
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer,Rt.Hn.CR(Northants
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thomas, A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas,JA(Glamorg'n,Gower
Thompson,E.C.(Monaghan,N.
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas CourtenayT.
Wason, Eugene(Clackmannan
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilson, F. W. (Norfolk, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.(Huddrsfld
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Charles Dilke and Mr. Caine.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George A.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt.Hn.A. J.(Manch'r
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
Beach,Rt.Hn.SirM.H.(Bristol)
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Brown,George M. (Edinburgh)
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish,V.C.W.(Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hon.J.(Birm
Chamberlain,J.Austen(Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Colston, Chas. Edw. H.Athole
Cook, Frederick Lucas
Corbett,A.Cameron(Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross,Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies,SirHoratioD(Chatham
Dewar,T.R.(T'rH'ml'ts,S.Geo.
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale, SirJosephCockfield
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, SirWilliamTheodore
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elibank, Master of
Faber, George Denison
Fergusson,Rt.Hn.SirJ(Manc'r
Fielden, EdwardBrocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs,Hon.Vicary(St.Albans)
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon,Hn.J.E(Elgin&Nairn
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George J.
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene,SirEW(B'rySEdm'nds
Greene,HenryD.(Shrewsbury)
Greene,W.Raymond-(Cambs.)
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Hain, Edward
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,Rt.Hn.LdG(Midd'x
Hamilton,Marq.of(L'nd'nd'rry
Hanbury, Rt. Rn. Robert W.
Hardy,Laurence (Kent,Ashfd.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris,FLeverton(Tynemouth
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Haslett, Sir J. Horner
Heath,ArthurHoward(Hanley
Heath, Jas. (Staffords. N.W.)
Helder, Augustus
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope,J.F.(SheffieldBrightside
Hoult, Joseph
Howard,CaptJ.(Kent,Faversh
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jackson, Rt. Hon. W. Lawies
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir J. H.
Kenyon, Hn. G. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W.(Salop.
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Lambton,Hon.Frederick Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, A. H. (Hants, Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower,FrederickN.S.

Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt. Hn Walter (Bristol, S.
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh W
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Majendie, James A. H.
Maxwell, W J H (Dumfriesshire
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Gilbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pemberton, John S. G.
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Maj. Frederic Carne
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, H. S. (Limehouse)
Saunderson, Rt Hn. Col. Edw. J.
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, E.)
Smith, H. C. (N'h'mb., Tyneside
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hn. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C E H (Sheffield
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Webb, Col. William George
Welby, Lt-Col A. C. E. (Taunt'n
Whiteley, H (Ashton u.-Lyne
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. S. (York, E.R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcester. N.)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

Original Question again proposed.

THE SOMALILAND EXPEDITION.

*SIR BRAMPTON GURDON (Norfolk, N.) moved to reduce the Vote by £10,000 in respect to Somaliland, and said that in accordance with the appeal of the First Lord of the Treasury to the Committee to give every Vote a fair chance, he should be as brief as possible in his remarks. His object in moving the reduction was to call attention to the revival of a practice which had long fallen into disuse in this country—the use of mercenaries in our wars. He referred to the employment of the Central African Regiment, first of all in Somaliland and then in West Africa. So long as native troops were used in their own particular country he offered no objection; but he certainly did object to their being moved into other countries as soldiers. In the future the Central African Regiment might become after years of training as reliable as the Sikhs, but at present they could not be trusted either in victory or defeat. It was in the recollection of the Committee that a discussion arose last year on the question of these men being removed to the Mauritius for garrison duty, the result being that they followed out their natural instincts and rebelled against discipline, broke out of barracks, and raided villages, murdering men and outraging women. He had never found out who was responsible for their being brought to Mauritius. They were severely punished and removed to Somaliland. He could only describe them as mercenaries, because they had not been long enough under the dominion of Great Britain to have any feeling of patriotism for our cause. A great many of our Yeomen who had gone out to South Africa went out for the fun of the fighting; but at the same time they felt that they were fighting for their country, and were buoyed up by the feeling of patriotism for our cause. He made no objection to Indian troops in China, because they had been so long under our rule that they had an attachment for us and were proud to fight for us, but the native troops which were now being employed in Somaliland were nothing better than mercenaries, whose instincts were almost animal, and it was a very dangerous thing to send these men to fight in a country when we could not restrain them in the moment of victory or depend upon them in the moment of defeat. He agreed with what had been said as to the disadvantage of placing these protectorates under the Foreign Office. British Central Africa, for which he claimed to speak, was earnestly desirous of being transferred to the Colonial Office. He moved the reduction of the Vote by the sum of £200.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Item, Class 5, Vote 2, be reduced by £10,000, in respect of Somaliland (Grant in Aid)."—(*Sir Brampton Gurdon.*)

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: The hon. Gentleman who has moved this reduction devoted a great part of his remarks to protesting against the use of these men in Somaliland. I can comfort him in that regard; they have not been used in Somaliland. Though they were in garrison there at the time of the outbreak of hostilities, they were unfortunately afflicted with illness, and were not available. I do not admit at all that these men behaved badly on the Mauritius, as the hon. Gentleman suggests.

*SIR BRAMPTON GURDON: Not at all; I stuck up for them. I said they were only following their natural instincts.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: Nor can I allow them to be called mercenaries. Of course they are mercenaries, in the sense that they are paid; but then so are the British soldiers, of whom we are all so proud. I think it is a strong order to say that these men do not feel their position as subjects of the British Empire as much or even more than we do. Hon. Members seem to have forgotten the enormous benefits conferred upon these men by their being under British rule, and it is very natural that they should be proud of their position in the Empire. I entirely repudiate the idea that they are mercenaries in any adverse sense of the word, and if we find, as we do, that these native troops are far more suitable for the conditions under which warfare in various parts of Africa is carried on we ought to use them. These troops we employ are far cheaper than any other troops that we could possibly employ. They are far cheaper than British troops and far cheaper than Indian troops, and upon every ground, therefore, from the point of view of cheapness and from the point of view of patriotism, we ought to employ them. Representing as I do the Foreign Office, I ought not to pass by altogether what has been said as to the administration of Somaliland and the other protectorates which are administered by the Foreign Office. The House may rest assured that there are special reasons why these protectorates should be administered rather by the Foreign than the Colonial Office. We have Protectorates whose frontiers adjoin those of France, Germany, and Italy, and questions constantly arise which can only be dealt with by the Foreign Office, and it would only tend to delay matters if these protectorates were transferred to the administration of the Colonial Office. That is the case of Somaliland; on the east we have the Italian hinterland, and on the west the French colonies, and those two nations are in constant relations with the protectorate.

AN HON. MEMBER: The same consideration applies to West Africa.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: Things in West Africa are in a very much more forward state undoubtedly. When once these countries are brought under settled government then they can be transferred to the Colonial Office, but that is not yet the case with Somaliland. I now propose very shortly to give an account of the expedition in Somaliland as I did in the case of Matabeleland, but I ought to preface it by the remark that it is very much a matter of conjecture, as we have not yet got to the end of operations. The object of the operations which are taking place in Somaliland is to check the depredations and attacks of a certain Mullah, who has for several years past been a great danger to the peace and order of that part of the world. He is a Mahdi, if I might say so, on a small scale, and I might very well rest the case there, because anyone who is familiar with what took place in the Soudan, which led to our expedition in that country, will have a full knowledge of the evils connected with Mahdism. This man was first heard of in 1896, but he did not attain any importance until 1899, when he returned from a pilgrimage to Mecca as the leader of a certain sect which proceeded to make proselytes in Somaliland, following the ordinary course of religious zealots. He claimed to rule the whole of the centre of Somaliland, from which he was good enough to say the English must go, although they might hold the coast. He then commenced a system of raiding accompanied by murder and robbery, and his despotism became such a nuisance that the tribes under our protection, having fought against it, cried out that they were gradually losing faith in our power to protect them. Their cattle were being carried away and the people were being murdered, and we were told that if we did not interfere they would be compelled to make friends with the Mullah to save themselves. The matter was complicated by the views of the Abyssinians. The Abyssinians applied to us to know whether we were going to permit the existence of this source of disorder, and asked for a reply. Matters went on, and the power and audacity of the Mullah increased, and it was finally represented to us by our officer on the spot that the situation had become dangerous. The same information came from the Abyssinians, so that the position of the Mullah could no longer be tolerated. At the end of November last year, therefore, the Government resolved to make preparations to check the Mullah. The British Central African Regiment was not available, but a body of Somalis was raised, with British officers and arms. Recently, I am glad to say, we hear that the Mullah has been engaged with the Abyssinians, and that they soundly defeated him. An advance on our side is now under consideration in order to subdue him finally. With regard to the future of Somaliland, I may say that this year the trade has reached its highest level since the opening of British rule, and the revenue has also improved. I do not deny that the temporary military expenditure has increased, but on the whole the outlook is by no means unfavourable, and I hope the expenditure will be confined to a limited amount. I need say no more, and I hope I have said enough to satisfy the Committee with regard to this Vote.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said the speech which had been delivered by the noble Lord would not bring conviction to the mind of anyone as to the justification of the proceedings which the Government had taken in South Africa. Such flimsy pretexts had never been given in the House of Commons for the expenditure of one million of money as those just given by the noble Lord as a reason for these military operations in Somaliland. The Mullah had made a pilgrimage to Mecca, and on his return had endeavoured to convert the people of his country to his own religious views. If that were a crime sufficient to necessitate a military expedition, then the British were guilty of that crime in a greater degree than any other nation of the world. The noble Lord had characterised this man as a barbarian and a general nuisance, and the British taxpayer was therefore to be called upon to find the money to make war upon him. It was a self-evident proposition that the Abyssinians were a civilised people and able to take care of themselves, because if they had not been nothing was more certain than that the Government would have made war upon them for the purpose of capturing their country. There was one curious fact with regard to the policy of the Government in Africa, and that was that, although they were always in hot water with somebody, they took care not to get into hot water with any people they did not think were weak enough to be subdued. The noble Lord had just said there was another expedition under consideration. Why, what reason was there for another expedition? He objected to this item of expenditure, not only because to some extent it fell upon Ireland, but from the English point of view that Members had a right to complain that the Government, when they considered it necessary to indulge in a warlike expedition against a mad Mullah, did not take precautions to have a proper military expedition launched against him, but were continually coming to the House for supplies. The noble Lord said this man was to be persecuted because he had endeavoured to impose his religious views upon other people.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: I did not say anything of the kind.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said he wished that sentiment had been acted upon in respect to Ireland, where the whole object of past Governments had been to impose their religious views upon the people of that country. He was glad that a reduction had been moved in this Vote. He strongly objected to these continual Votes for war-like expeditions. Whatever the case might be with regard to the necessity of these expeditions from a British point of view, from the Irish point of view there was absolutely no justification for the expenditure of a single penny in this direction. He did not know what the constituents of the Liberal Members of the House were like, but from the action of the Liberal party from time to time upon questions of this kind he was inclined to think that their constituents could not be up to much. There could be no doubt in the mind of the noble Lord that those Irish Members who represented Irish constituencies had got a mandate from the people who elected them to offer the strongest opposition in their power to expenditure of this kind. The previous Vote which had been passed was very similar to this one, and now they were asked to vote £200,000 for a war against some unfortunate Mullah who happened to hold religious views different from the noble Lord opposite and his noble relative the Member for Greenwich. This Mullah might not be ritualistic enough to suit the Member for Greenwich, but that was no reason why his head should be cut off and a military expedition launched against him. From the point of view of the Irish taxpayers they were perfectly justified in opposing this expenditure. They knew that the members of the Government would be the last people to refuse to admit that there was in Ireland the most pressing need for the expenditure of money in order to develop the industries of the country. The people of Ireland were in a state of distress, and yet they had the greatest difficulty in getting the House of Commons to listen to Irish representatives. They were asked to vote hundreds of thousands of pounds for these unnecessary, dangerous, iniquitous, and sanguinary wars in every part of Africa, and if they offered the slightest objection they were told that they were obstructing and interfering with the business of the House and the country. Whenever a Vote of this kind came up it must be apparent to all hon. Members that it would be far better for the interests of this country if, instead of being compelled to come to this House, they were allowed to remain at home and manage their own affairs.

*SIR BRAMPTON GURDON said that after the explanation given by the noble Lord he would ask leave to withdraw his Amendment. [Cries of "No, no!" from the Irish benches.]

Permission to withdraw being refused,

MR. BROADHURST said he understood from what the noble Lord had just stated that another expedition was to take place immediately in Africa. He wished to know if it had been already organised, when would it be put in motion, what was its object, was the expedition unavoidable, and was there any prospect of preventing it? They did not often get to know anything of this kind until the bill was presented to Parliament. The noble Lord had treated them with a frankness and an open-mindedness to which they were not accustomed. As he had told them so much about the matter, perhaps he would not mind telling them a little more. When was this expedition to take place and what was the length of time that would be necessary to secure the object in view? Perhaps the noble Lord could tell the Committee what the probable cost would be and how much this country was likely to benefit by the expedition when it was over.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: The object of the expedition is to defeat the Mullah and to destroy his power. If there is any chance of his power being destroyed without an expedition, no one will be more delighted than the Government. I am bound to say that I do not think the expedition can be avoided. The situation has become intolerable. This man's barbarity injures our trade and hurts our subjects, and he must be destroyed. The Mullah was originally a religious leader, but his religious character has disappeared and his barbarity and tyranny remain.

*MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea) thought the House of Commons was very much indebted to the hon. Member for getting this information from the noble Lord. It was all very well for him to say that this Mullah was mad——

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: I have never the used word "mad" in the whole course of these proceedings.

*MR. JOHN BURNS said that perhaps in the mind of the noble Lord he was something worse than mad—he was religious. He wished to deal with the statement of the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs to the effect that in the neighbourhood of Somaliland a native chief had arisen who had become a nuisance to British interests. He had become such a nuisance that he had to be hunted down at all cost. If the noble Lord thought that this hunting of Mullahs could go on indefinitely east, west, north, and south, in the present strained condition of the finances of the British Empire, then he had embarked upon an expedition the end of which no man could see and the cost of which the British taxpayers would seriously resent if the Government were to give them an opportunity. They resented Mullah hunting in general and the Somaliland one in particular. The noble Lord stated that this expedition was going on, and would go on until this Mullah was destroyed. But they were not going to destroy this Mullah and his power so easily. He started this game in 1896, and in 1899 he became serious. He presumed that the Mullah was an Arab and had paid a visit to Mecca, and in consequence some disagreement had ensued. Therefore, he came back from Mecca and became a nuisance. He was accused of stealing cattle, but there were British subjects in other parts of Africa who were engaged in that occupation at the present time. Did the Government also propose to destroy the cattle stealers there? The chief offence of this man was that, under the guise of religious inspiration, this religious enthusiast had started "lifting" the cattle of his neighbours. But that was a congenial and reciprocal pastime in Somaliland. His fellow-countrymen north of the Tweed indulged in the same pastime 200 years ago. Cattle stealing was a tribal pastime in Africa, almost as popular as foxhunting and breaking down farmers' fences was in this country. Surely that was no reason why they should kill the men who indulged in it. They appeared to have determined to rout out of Africa every tribe that showed courage, every chief who displayed independence, and every native community which had courageously determined to stick to their own language, religion, habits and customs, and if England continued this policy much longer these oppressed people would join together in one common cause, and a condition of things in Africa would arise which all the European Powers combined would not be able to overcome and subdue. They tried the same thing on with the Mahdi, and then they transferred their attention to Kruger and to Steyn, and they would have liked to have done the same thing with Menelik, but he was too strong. The Italians tried to do the same thing, and he rejoiced to think that the Abyssinians wiped out the demoralised Italians at Adowa.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! The subject to which the hon. Member is referring has no bearing upon this Vote.

*MR. JOHN BURNS said he would bow at once to the Chairman's ruling. The noble Lord talked about the enforcement of discipline as if discipline and military rule were synonymous with the development of British trade. That was not true, and he believed that just in proportion as they tried to subject these native tribes to military discipline to that extent they would damage their trade and interfere with commercial interests; not only this, but they would damage the future relationship of this country with the people whom they ought to be in kindly, benevolent, and friendly contact with. Who were the people they had chosen for this expedition? They had employed 1,600 Central African irregulars.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: Native levies.

*MR. JOHN BURNS said that by employing those men under British supervision they were only producing tribal animosities. [Ministerial cries of "Oh, oh!"] He could assure hon. Members opposite that they were not going to howl him down, and so long as he was in order he should exercise the attenuated rights left to a Member of Parliament of expressing his views. He believed that the employment of these irregulars was going to do a great deal of harm to British interests, and as one who had had a year's experience of them in one of the worst parts of Africa he would say that just in proportion as they used force to destroy native habits and customs they were damaging trade, weakening their prestige, and accentuating permanently the very thing they hoped to remove. He would read to the Committee an extract from the writings of a very distinguished African, Sir Andrew Clarke. He said—and his remarks apply to East Africa—

> "We should be happier in our rule on the West Coast—and I speak from experience, for I was out there for some time myself—if we had confined ourselves to pure trading. At present we can only succeed by forced labour, and that always means the deterioration of both English and native. Remember this, that on the West Coast we are only re-occupying ground which was occupied by the powerful and pious influence of the Roman Catholics—I refer to the government of the Portuguese, years ago. They spent money and lives, but failed, and now there remain of their rule only the ruins of convents and old palaces, which you will see crumbling to dust in the jungle, with ceilings painted by Italians. Nature is too strong for the European, and it will be the same with us. Our work in the Hinterland may prolong our stay, but in time it will be handed over to natives, controlled and guided by a half-caste and bastard population of our own race. And awful then will be the condition of West Africa. It will be a solemn warning to England, and an object lesson on the absolute necessity for firm decision between the true colonisation of our race and the occupying of territory merely for the purposes of money-getting."

And to confirm him on page 28 of the Central Africa Protectorate Report there appeared the following:—

> "There is a steady increase of contagious venereal diseases among Europeans and natives,"

and other horrors incidental to this undisciplined territory grábbing.

That was the civilisation which they intended to give to Somaliland by such expeditions as the noble Lord was now engaged in. This country, through lack of judgment and tact, in sixty years had undertaken sixty-three wars and expeditions against native tribes in east, west, north, south, not only of Africa, but of Asia. The people of this country were getting tired of such campaigns in Africa, alternating with expeditions on the north-west frontier of India. Was the Government going to enforce equal rights to all men in South Africa and destroy the Boers, who were rightly struggling to be free? He protested with all his force against the House of Commons surrendering its supervisory duties and its controlling power to the Cabinet. So long as the House of Commons surrendered its duty of control in such matters, and allowed inexperienced military men to manage such affairs, so long would the taxation of the country continue to go up. It was because he believed their Empire would be diminished and not increased by such expeditions, because he believed that their honour was attacked and their prestige was being slowly whittled away, that he deprecated the speech made by the noble Lord. He should condemn the Somaliland expedition as long as he was a Member of the House, for such expenditure was only squandering their money, irritating the native tribes against them, and making the name of England a byeword and reproach to the smaller nations of the earth. He appealed to every hon. Member on this side of the House, and to the better-intentioned hon. Members on the other side—to the old-fashioned Tories who were getting tired of the new diplomacy and this world-wide brigandage and filching away of native rights and customs from people who had a right to any religion which they cared to profess—to vote against this policy, which was permanently damaging the British Empire, its name, and its best traditions.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I hope the House will agree with me when I say that on a Supplementary Estimate it really is not desirable that we should go over the whole policy of the relations between this country and the various native tribes, rights, and customs which the hon. Gentleman has gone into.

*MR. JOHN BURNS said he should not have said a word on the subject but for the noble Lord telling them that this expedition was going to be carried through until the Mullah was destroyed, and that was not a policy which ought to be introduced upon a Supplementary Estimate.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: In any case, I think the next item in this Vote presents an even more attractive opportunity of attacking the Government, and I would suggest that hon. Members opposite should allow this Vote to pass and turn their attention to pursuing higher game.

MR. DALY said that one of the pleas put forward by the noble Lord opposite was that trade would be spoiled unless this Mullah was put down. That was practically an admission that such wars were carried on for the purpose of extending trade, and while Great Britain might be improved by these expeditions not one penny of improvement would come to the country which he represented. For that reason he felt that it was the duty of his hon. friends on that side of the House to protest against the large sums of money called for by the Government in the way of Supplementary Votes. It was a very remarkable thing that the Government, possessing so much brains and ability, had not been able to foresee more accurately their requirements and the amount of money they would require to carry them through. On this ground they fully deserved every opposition to the passing of those Votes. Any commercial establishment which went so far astray as the Government had done this year in estimating its requirements would soon find itself in the Bankruptcy Court.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided: Ayes, 230; Noes, 117. (Division List No. 75.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alex.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. C. (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chath'm
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dewar, T R. (T'r H'ml'ts, S. Geo.
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edw.
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn A. G. H. (City of Lond.
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Sir E W (B'ry S Edm'nds
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (Mid'x
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'donderry
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. W.
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'd)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'uth
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur H. (Hanley)
Heath, Jas. (Staffords., N. W.)
Helder, Augustus
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J. F. (Shef'ld, Brightside
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, Capt J (Kent, Faversh.
Hutton; John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jackson, Rt. Hon. W. Lawies
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir J. H.
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh

Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Lambton, Hon. Frederick W.
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, Capt. A H (Hants. Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Bristol, S.
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W. G. E.
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinb., W.)
M'Killop, Jas. (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, W J H (Dumfriesshire
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milward, Col. Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, David J (Walthamst.)
Morgan, Hon. F. (Monm'thsh.
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Maj. Frederic Carne
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge)
Ridley, S. F. (Bethnal Green)
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. E. J.
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, E.)
Smith, H. C. (N'h'mb., Tyneside
Smith, Jas. Parker (Lanarks.)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stanley, Hon Arthur (Ormskirk
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hon. J G (Oxf'd Univ
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Webb, Col. William George
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C E (Taunton
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-u.-Lyne)
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allen, C. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, Geo. M. (Edinburgh)
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Daly, James
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Dunn, Sir William
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Hammond, John
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Holland, William
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kitson, Sir James
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Leamy, Edmund
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
M'Crae, George
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mooney, John J.
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Nolan, Col. J. P. (Galway, N.
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Palmer, George W. (Reading)
Partington, Oswald
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas

Schwann, Charles E.
Sinclair,CaptJohn(Forfarshire
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas,Alfred (Glamorgan,E.
Thomas,F.Freeman-(Hastings
Thomas,J A(GlamorganGower
Thompson,E.C.(Monaghan,N.
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, ThomasCourtenayT.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Wilson, F.W. (Norfolk, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wodehouse,Hn.Armine(Essex
Woodhouse,SirJT(Hudd'rsfi'd
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

Question put accordingly, "That the Item, Class 5, Vote 2, be reduced by £10,000, in respect of Somaliland (Grant-in-Aid)."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 112; Noes, 235. (Division List No. 76.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Cawley, Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Daly, James
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies,MVaughan-(Cardigan)
Dewar, J. A. (Inverness-sh.)
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Ellis, John Edward
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Foster, Sir W. (Derby Co.)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Hammond, John
Hardie,J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Holland, William Henry
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kitson, Sir James
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Leamy, Edmund
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
M'Crae, George
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mooney, John J.
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Murphy, J.
Nolan,Col.John P.(Galway,N.
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor,James (Wicklow,W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Palmer,GeorgeWm.(Reading)
Reddy, M.
Redmond, JohnE.(Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, JohnH.(Denbighsh.)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Schwann, Charles E.
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer,Rt.Hn.CR(Northants
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Alfred(Glamorgan,E.
Thomas,F.Freeman-(Hastings
Thomas,J A(Glamorgan,Gower
Tomkinson, James
Tully, Jasper
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Wilson,Fred.W.(Norfolk,Mid.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wodehouse,Hn.Armine(Essex
Woodhouse,SirJT(Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Brampton Gurdon and Mr. Thomas Bayley.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc.,Stroud
Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn.A.J. (Manch'r
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.

Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, H. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, Sir Horatio D (Chatham
Dewar, T. R. (T'rH'ml'ts, S. Geo
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale, Sir J. Cockfield
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Dunn, Sir William
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Fergusson, Rt Hn Sir J (Manchr)
Fielden, Edw. Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Rbt. Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn A. G. H. (City of Lond.
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans)
Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John E.
Goschen, Hon. George J.
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Sir E W (B'ryS. Edm'ds
Greene, W. Raymond- (Cambs.
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt Hn. Lord G (M'd'x
Hamilton, Marq of (L'nd'nd'rry
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. W.
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'd)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, A. Howard (Hanley)
Heath, Jas. (Staffords., N.W.
Helder, Augustus
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J. F. (Shef'ld, Brightside
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, Capt J (Kent, Faversh.
Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. L.
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop)
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Lambton, Hon. Frederick W.
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, Capt A. H. (Hants, Fareh'm
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, Rt. Hn W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Iver, Sir L. (Edinburgh, W.
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morgan, Hon. F. (Monm'thsh.
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Partington, Oswald
Pemberton, John S. G.
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge)
Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson, Rt. Hn Col. Edw. J.
Seeley, Charles Hilton (Lincoln
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, H C (North'mb Tyneside
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G (Oxf'd Univ.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Webb, Col. William George
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (T'nton
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

Original Question again proposed.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—HOSPITAL COMMISSION'S REPORT.

MR. BURDETT-COUTTS (Westminster): I regret that the consideration of the Report of the South African Hospitals Commission, which deals with a subject which has moved the nation for a considerable time, should come on at an hour when it will be impossible, without overtaxing the patience of the Committee, to deal with it adequately, and therefore I will make an appeal before going on to the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House. It is this, Whether, considering that we have practically had no opportunity of debating this subject since the Report of the Commission was issued, considering the great interest which, I think, is felt on this subject, and considering also the opinions of the Commission, he would not consent to give a day or half a day for the discussion of the Report at any time he may find it convenient to do so. I should be content with this being given after Easter. I think I am able to say that if he could offer us a fair opportunity of discussing this very important subject the opposition to the Vote, which cannot possibly be successful, would not be persevered in.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Gentleman is not content with the opportunity he has now; but it is not very late, it is still early (12.5 a.m.). But if, in spite of that reflection, he still thinks that he would like some other opportunity, I think it would be in order on the Vote for the War Office, but this Vote must go on. I should be quite glad to put down the Vote we have been discussing, or rather the whole body of Supply, as the first item on Monday for Report, and if the House consented to pass over the Votes which have been relatively fully discussed to-night, then the hon. Gentleman and those who desire to see the medical question raised will, of course, have ample opportunity of discussing it. If the opportunity of debate which I offer him on Monday does not fit in with his desire, then there will be a later opportunity of discussing the question on the Estimates.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): I wish to understand this matter clearly. I quite coincide with the appeal that has been made to the First Lord of the Treasury with the view of getting a fuller discussion of the subject. Does the right hon. Gentleman propose that the Report stage should be taken early on Monday as the first Order, so that this question may be discussed?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Of course, the first Order would be the Order for the whole body of Supply. It could only be so by the rules of the House; but if the House were content to pass lightly and rapidly over the Votes we have discussed, so as to come quickly to the questions which we have not hitherto discussed, then, of course, full opportunity of debate would be given to the hon. Gentleman. I am in the hands of the House in the matter. I shall be glad to put that down first on Monday, immediately after Questions.

MR. BURDETT-COUTTS: The Monday promise appears to be contingent on circumstances which it is impossible to foresee. Therefore, if I have not exhausted my right of speaking, I think it would not be respectful to the House of Commons or to the Committee if, after having passed some stringent criticisms on the action of this Commission in another form, I were not willing to support those criticisms on the occasion of this Vote, or not ready to meet any answer that may be made to them. I hope I am the last person to put things in the papers on public subjects which I am unwilling to back up in my place in Parliament.

I believe that the Secretary of State for War, whose attitude on this question I venture to express my great appreciation of, intends to deal out reforms with no niggard hand. There is only one question with regard to which I am not absolutely clear, that is, how far he proposes to rest upon the results of this inquiry, for which we are now voting a large sum of public money, and how far he proposes to confine himself to its suggestions in framing his scheme of reform. I believe that if he does so his reforms will be a total failure, because I think the inquiry has been partial and imperfect, the conclusions lame and impotent, and the main suggestions of reform are framed on the wrong lines. I consider it a very grave matter that at this moment, when the Army is a subject of great national interest and great national anxiety, one of its chief Departments should have been investigated in a manner which has resulted in casting over its defects a cloak which has not only concealed the real nature and extent of the defects themselves, but has concealed their causes and the responsibility for them. We condemn a general for inaction in the field, but when we come to a more peaceful Department of the Army, but one in which inaction and mismanagement have far more deadly results, we are content to be silent as to cause and effect, and silent as to responsibility.

What was this Commission? Was it a tribunal appointed with a due regard to the peculiar circumstances by which the inquiry would be surrounded, setting forth equipped with ample powers to meet those circumstances, and to pierce the wall of official defence that was certain to be set up? No, Sir. It had none of those powers which were essential to its work, and the consequence is that weakness, inconclusiveness, and partiality run through every page of its Report. Sir, it is not my object to discuss the Report so much as the inquiry which has been held; and the imperfections of this inquiry I prefer to attribute to the absence of compulsory powers. Why those powers were not given in the first instance I could never understand. But I am not going back on that subject, because once the Government had determined to send the Commission out without powers, the Government is freed to a large extent from its responsibility by having left it to the Commission to ask for the powers if necessary. From this point the blame rests on the Commission. But wherever the blame lies, the result is the same.

What has been the result of the absence of powers? I take it from the Report itself:—

> "We have also had to recognise that our private soldiers are very slow in making complaints."

Why did not the Commission ask for compulsory powers?

> "Witnesses . . . would only state the facts which they thought assisted their own views, and by keeping back other information . . . would tend to give a false impression as to the true state of things."

They could not get their questions answered. Compulsory powers, which would have included taking evidence on oath and compelling the answering of questions, would have made this vain and futile examination impossible. At any moment the Commission might have obtained those powers. That is the declaration of the Commission—that the soldiers would not give evidence, that witnesses would not answer questions. May I be pardoned if I remind the Committee that when I stated this here last summer I was told that my evidence on that account was to be discredited, and that I was insulting the whole British Army. When the Commission state it they are rewarded with a medical baronetcy and a legal Grand Cross of the Bath. I do not want to interfere with gentlemen getting these distinctions if they like them; but I wish they had been ear-marked as rewards for undertaking a laborious task rather than as implying approval of the manner in which the inquiry had been conducted.

Now, Sir, I want to say two things about this remarkable declaration or confession of the Commission about the difficulties of getting evidence. If the Commission had placed it at the head of their Report instead of wrapping it up in an obscure paragraph, we should have known how to estimate the nature of the inquiry, and how to appreciate the value of the Report. The second thing I have to say is, When did the Commission find this out? Was it at Netley, when they were first appointed? Was it at Cape Town, a little later? Where was it? In any case why did they not apply to Lord

Roberts for compulsory powers? He could have given them under martial law by a stroke of his pen, as he gave them to the Concessions Commission presided over by my hon. friend the Member for Warwick and Leamington. But the Commission chose to go on without them. I have drawn attention elsewhere to what I have called a "sinister corollary" to the absence of powers, and that was the presence of an overwhelming organisation supervising the inquiry, choosing the witnesses, producing the greater part of the evidence, acting as *amicus curiæ* throughout the investigation; whereas there was not the slightest attempt at organisation, there was not a single guiding voice or assisting hand to help the other side. Sir, I do not want to inquire who was to blame for this state of things. All I say is that it is not within the widest stretch of imagination that an inquiry so circumstanced could arrive at the truth.

The Commission discard the suggestion that there was any possibility of their getting evidence as to what had taken place in April and May by a personal inspection of the hospitals at the time of their visit to South Africa; the "magic transformation scene" which took place within a week of the disclosures in the press and in this House, and which to my mind is the very strongest possible proof establishing previous official neglect, had cleared away most of its traces.

But there was no concealment about the getting up of the case. Two officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps were appointed to go round the hospitals, select the evidence, and prepare the way for the Commission. One of these returning home stated in public, while the Commission was still sitting—

> "Everything was as perfect as possible. Everything that mortal knowledge and foresight could supply was at hand. Many of the hospitals generated their own electric light and manufactured their own soda water."

This was the picture presented to the Commission which was appointed to inquire into the bell-tents at Bloemfontein in the months of April and May! I seem to hear the echo of the speeches at the Reform Club banquet on April 29th: "Everything that prevision could suggest or money supply was present on the spot."

Now it may be stated, in fact I think I have seen it stated in a high quarter, that these two officers were appointed to collect the whole evidence, that is, as much against as for the authorities. Very well. I want to call the attention of the Committee to something more about those two gentlemen who were appointed to get up the case. It is contained in a letter from the Chaplain to the Forces at Norval's Pont. The proceedings are thus described in a letter to the President of the Commission printed in the evidence, which runs as follows—

> "To the Right Hon. Lord Justice Romer, Chairman of the Royal South African Hospitals Commission.—About 2nd August two majors of the R.A.M.C. came to Norval's Pont, saying that Lord Roberts had sent them to visit all the military hospitals in South Africa, and ascertain where there was evidence for the Hospital Commission, and then to meet the Commissioners in Cape Town, and act as guides to them. To one of those gentlemen I told some of the distressing things that had come to my notice here; for example, how during May enteric and dysenteric patients had to walk 400 yards to a latrine; how, during June, there were, first, no bed-pans, disinfectants, or nurses, although the war had passed away north in the middle of March, and the railways from Cape Town and Port Elizabeth were clear, and the neighbouring civil hospital, the Edinburgh, had all it needed; how so-called convalescents arrived here actually suffering with enteric, and were sent on again somewhere else a few days later; and how I had seen them crouching or lying by the railway line for hours before a train was due. Mention was alse made in our conversations of the fact that a Board of Inquiry into hospital officers' mess expenses had sat, as a result of which, while these two gentlemen were still here, the Senior Medical Officer was suspended; and also of the fact that letters home of a civil surgeon here, commenting severely on the treatment of the sick and wounded, had got into a local newspaper, and so into *The Times*. Yet this officer, giving evidence before your Commission in Cape Town, said 'There was no cause for complaint of any kind at Norval's Pont.'"—*Cape Times* report, 22nd August.

This was one of the officers who got up the case for the Commission, and that is my answer if it is contended that they were ordered to do their work impartially.

Sir, I repeat that the absence of powers on the one hand, and the presence of such an organisation on the other, should have made the Commission ten times more careful with regard to its proceedings. I have complained of the inadequate number of patients examined. Who could so well tell of the treatment of the sick and wounded as the man who was treated? The refusal to hear, or want of care in hearing, patients' evidence was a grave infringement of the Reference to the Commission as amended by the words of the First Lord of the Treasury—"a Commission to inquire into the care and treatment of every sick and wounded man in South Africa." I do not want to press that amended Reference too literally, but I say that the peculiar circumstances of the case demanded the fullest and most careful examination of soldier-patients.

Now as to the method in which patients were examined. There was not only the state visit to Netley, when they examined on a single afternoon, in the wards of the hospital, seventy out of the 154 soldier-patients examined during the whole inquiry; but nearly all the other patients were examined in batches in hospitals, their comrades and officers knowing perfectly well the sort of evidence they were going to give and had given. Is it not incredible that this method of examination should have been adopted, when the Commissioners themselves say, "especially while the men are in hospital, they may be deterred from complaining by fear of consequences." The Commission condemns itself out of its own mouth. To hear these soldiers who have been the real sufferers, and have seen their comrades suffer and die; to hear them, not on formal visits to hospitals, surrounded by official supervision and many other deterrent conditions, but individually and apart, and by careful examination to get out their whole story; finally, to hear them in the largest possible number, especially with regard to the times and places which led to the inquiry—these methods were more essential to a just conclusion than volumes of evidence from official and Army medical authorities, placed on their defence, and practically monopolising the witness-box.

Up to this point I have complained (1) of the absence of compulsory powers; (2) of the presence of a watchful and omnipotent organisation on one side of the case, with nothing of the sort on the other, and of the getting up of the case by two officers of the Department which was on its trial; (3) of the inadequate number of private soldiers examined; (4) of the fatally deterrent conditions under which they were heard. I will now ask the Committee to listen to a few further facts which I desire to lay before it.

1. At the time the Commission were appointed there must have been in this country some 3,000 or 4,000 soldiers who had been patients in the hospitals, and at the times of which I complain. The record of every patient who had been in hospital, what hospital he had been in, when he had been there, how long he had stayed, was in the hands of the Department. Was any real effort made to search out these men or to take their evidence? There was the afternoon visit to Netley; the patients there were taken haphazard. That was all.

2. The Committee will remember that one of the main points to which his attention was directed last summer, one of the main things that led to the appointment of the Commission, was a description I gave of a certain field hospital at Bloemfontein. The Commission recognised the importance of the case. They devoted two whole pages to it, and they came to a feeble and most inconclusive verdict. Now, Sir, before the appointment of the Commission at least 1,000 soldiers must have passed through that hospital as patients. As far as I can see, and I have examined the evidence very closely, not a single man who was in that hospital as a patient was examined before the Commission.

3. Take another case, the case of the eight patients on the platform at the Bloemfontein railway station. I have pointed out how the Commission, in spite of my personal evidence, who was there; in spite of the evidence of the hon. Member for Bow and Bromley, who was also there; in spite of the evidence of the civilian medical officer who received the patients at the Irish hospital—the Commission accept the story of the Principal Medical Officer, who was really responsible for the scandal, and recite it as their own verdict upon this painful affair. But, Sir, what I want to ask is this. Why did they not

call at least one of the seven surviving men of that incident? Not one was called.

4. One of the strongest complaints I have made against the medical arrangements was the bad feeding of convoys of sick and wounded sent by train, mostly in open trucks. How does the Commission pursue its inquiry into this matter? Out of 154 patients who were examined only seven were asked questions about their feeding on trains. Four of these stated they only got bully beef and biscuits. That is how the Commission inquired into the important question of the feeding of these convoys, and that is the basis of their verdict.

> *From Bloemfontein:* "We think that sufficient and proper food and medical comforts were provided for them." *From Kroonstad:* "As a rule, we think that proper food and comforts were provided for the men on the journey." *General conclusions;* "Before the men started on any journey they were, as a rule, well supplied with such comforts, as well as with proper food."

The Committee will notice that my last four points have been:—(1) That no real effort was made to obtain patients' evidence with regard to the places and times of which I complained; (2) that no patient in the crowded field hospital was examined; (3) that not one of the sick men on the platform was examined; (4) that practically no evidence with regard to the feeding of convoys in trains was taken.

I will now deal with two individual but important instances of the methods of the Commission with regard to evidence. I take first a letter from the Archbishop of Cape Town, who writes as follows—

> "The Hospitals Commission is returning this week. Whether the result will justify their mission is, I think, very doubtful. There can be no doubt but that while the defence was thoroughly and completely organised, the fact that it was no one's real business to make the attack made the case against the authorities very difficult to establish. . . .
>
> "I had said all I knew, or the most important part of it, on paper and forwarded it to the secretary. But in spite of this they so strongly urged me to meet them that, though it involved much inconvenience to myself and to others, and caused me an additional journey of 600 miles, I came to Cape Town—to be asked two or three questions, which I had already answered on paper, and to be dismissed after about five minutes. When I wished to hand in some evidence afterwards about the serious deficiency in hospital equipment even at the hospitals near Cape Town, I was somewhat curtly informed that the Commissioners desired no further information on that point. . . .
>
> "For one thing one may be thankful. I have heard it said far and wide that from the moment the controversy was raised in England and here, the comforts of the patients were much better attended to."

Now, Sir, what is the point here? I put aside the peculiar treatment meted out to a high dignitary of the Church busily engaged performing the functions of his office and dragged 600 miles up to Cape Town to have two or three questions put to him. The real point is that he tendered new evidence with regard to the base hospitals, and that that evidence was peremptorily declined.

Now let us look at the verdict of the Commission about the base hospitals. They quote the opinion of the staff commander at the base, who was really in a military sense responsible for the condition of the hospitals—

> "They were all housed, and all had good mattresses to lie on, and were well looked after—much better than I have ever seen on service elsewhere."

I wonder if he has ever seen a campaign where the base was at a great town and a great port provided with every comfort that the world could supply. But that is not my point. The Commission made up their mind with regard to the base hospitals and they did not want any more evidence. Now, Sir, I am not a lawyer, but I put it to any lawyer here present—Did he ever hear of a judge or a jury refusing new evidence and then making up their mind in favour of the side against whom that evidence would tell? That is exactly what the Commission did in this case.

There is another case which I mentioned in one of my letters and which is so similar to that I have just related that I will remind the Committee of it here. It is connected with what is known as the "Intombi Scandal." With regard to that matter the Committee print the evidence of two Army medical officers, and the evidence of an Army Service Corps officer who was appointed by Sir George White to inquire into the matter. The latter officer gave evidence against the medical arrangements. The Commission give their usual verdict—

> "But we think, after making all just allowances, that no complaint can reasonably be made with regard to the steps taken by the authorities or the way in which the patients were looked after."

I may say that the main complaint against Intombi was the stealing of the patient's food and comforts by the orderlies and non-commissioned officers. But that is not the point I want to make. There was another Court of Inquiry into Intombi, which is actually referred to in the evidence, composed of three officers, and one of these officers wrote to the Commission stating that the evidence taken before that Court would be of great value, suggesting that they should call for it, and offering himself to appear as a witness before the Commission. He was not called, and he never had any answer to his letter. And yet the Commission say there was no just cause of complaint as to the way in which the patients were looked after. This officer who wrote to the Commission is a well-known member of the Natal Legislature, and served throughout the war with considerable distinction as an officer of the Natal Volunteers. He naturally feels somewhat strongly on the subject, and writes—

> "If the hospitals were a scandal it seems that the work of the Commission is going to be a greater scandal."

Now, Sir, I put this opinion of a leading colonist side by side with that of the Archbishop of Cape Town—and if time served me I could give other equally strong and authoritative opinions from the Colony—and I want to ask the Committee, Is this the lesson we want our colonies to learn of our methods in such a matter? Remember, far and wide over there they have seen and known what happened. Their own sons and brothers and husbands and fathers have suffered from our mismanagement of this great Department of the campaign. And we tell them that this is the sort of inquiry into those thing with which England is content, and we ask these young administrations to accept this model, stamped with the mother country's high authority and honour, of how we conduct our public business and how we guard the interests of truth and justice, in a matter of life and death. Do you think this will increase the love and honour of the colonies for the mother country? Do you think this will strengthen the tie which at best depends on the moral force of a high example, upon that purer conception of public life and that more just and honest regard for public truth, which the colonies look for from the sovereign government and the Mother of Parliaments?

I have spoken much of the evidence the Commission did not take. I now desire to say a few words about how they treated certain evidence they did take. At Pretoria, when the Commission had but half completed its inquiry, Lord Roberts gave evidence. As is well known, Lord Roberts's evidence was highly favourable to the medical arrangements in the war. I am not going to discuss the opinion of Lord Roberts on this subject. I am only dealing with the action of the Commission. Lord Roberts's evidence was published the next day throughout South Africa. Sir, the publication of that evidence from that moment closed the mouth of every officer in the British Army. What is the custom in courts-martial and councils of war? Is it not that the junior officer gives his opinion first and so on upwards in the successive ranks, the opinion of the senior officer being taken last, in order that it should not affect the free expression of opinion by his subordinates? The case is infinitely stronger here. All the witnesses had to come forward voluntarily. Who was Lord Roberts? He was the most popular commander of modern times. He was Commander-in-Chief of the Forces in South Africa. He was the future Commander-in-Chief of the British Army. Talk about insulting the Army! Did not the real insult lie in placing officers in a position where they must either condemn the views of their Commander-in-Chief or be silent as to evils from which they knew their men had suffered? What did we hear the other night from the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for the Colonies? That when Lord Roberts had given his decision, it was not permissible even for the House of Commons to discuss the merits of the case or to have any opinion. *A fortiori*, how could you expect officers of the Army to come forward, not under compulsion, but spontaneously and of their own free will, to contradict the authoritative opinion and traverse the published decision of their Commander-in-Chief? Mr. Lowther, the publication of Lord Roberts's evidence by the Commission before they closed their sittings was the greatest barrier that was ever placed against the truth coming out in an inquiry like this.

Sir, I will make but a brief reference to what I frankly own I think the greatest blot in the history of the Commission, and that is the refusal to hear the witnesses I offered to send before them. I had spent four months collecting this evidence; it came from the most capable and intelligent set of eye-witnesses I have ever met, brave men who scorned to complain of hardships in the field, but whose practical common-sense had been offended by seeing men suffer and die from defects in hospitals which they knew were easily remediable and had nothing to do with military exigencies. The Commission had been all along in the hands of the Department. They had practically promised to take the evidence in England on their return; they refused to do so. I leave this matter, and the only inference that can be drawn from it, to the Committee and the public. All I say is that, had they heard those witnesses, it would have been impossible for them to have presented such a weak and vacillating Report.

I will now refer to a very grave omission in the Report. We have heard something about the bad feeding of patients in trains. Does the Committee really know how the results of that neglect were averted? Throughout the whole campaign, for a year and a half, these trains have been slowly dragging down to the base with their convoys of sick and wounded, and throughout the whole campaign their feeding and refreshment on the way has been largely done, not by the military or medical authorities whose duty it was, but by the voluntary aid and great kindness of the civilian population all along the line, most of which ran through a sparsely inhabited area. Many of these people are poor and hard-worked. They have given their time, their savings, their labour to this humane and loyal service—little stationmasters' wives and daughters, even porters' and platelayers' womenfolk; they have waited up all night keeping a fire lighted to make beef-tea or warm milk, or other nourishment suitable for the painful complaints of the patients. It was a most important part of the medical arrangements, into which this Commission was to inquire. Was there no place for an adequate reference to it in the Report, if not by way of tribute, at least in recognition of its importance in the medical arrangements? No, none; because it was not done by officials or by a Department. So in this Report, which I suppose will be the authoritative and historic record of the medical arrangements in the war, this continuous chain of generosity and self-sacrifice, reaching over 700 miles of that railway, displayed by the humble and loyal colonists to the vast armies which have poured into that country, goes entirely unacknowledged. I deeply regret it.

Sir, the complexion which colours the Report throughout is shown to be fatal when we come to the Commission's suggestions of reform. Whatever is firm—and it is very little—is partial to the Department; whatever is not partial to the Department is feeble to a degree. I can only very briefly touch on some of their proposals.

They recommend first—first, mark you—the increase of the Royal Army Medical Corps. It is quite true that lower down they admit that the scientific status of the corps ought to be improved; but they treat the subject in a very half-hearted way. They miss altogether another instance where surely a tribute was due, but none has been paid, and which also touches closely the question of reform. The Committee has heard of the New South Wales Medical Contingent, with its fine field hospital and gallant bearer company. It was the only colonial medical service in the war. It was a sort of militia service, but its medical officers were mostly distinguished medical men in the colonies, who left their practices and gave their services. Their staff, non-coms., and orderlies were splendidly disciplined and efficient. There was no stealing patients' money and property in the New South Wales Field Hospital. Wherever there was firing the New South Wales Bearer Company was sure to be close at hand at the right moment. Yet, with the exception of a brief and colourless mention, there is no tribute of any kind to this splendid colonial service in that department of the campaign which the Commission was sent out to inquire into. No; it did not belong to the Department. But surely the lesson is an important one in these days, when the extension of the auxiliary forces plays such a large part in this Army scheme. It is absolutely lost on the Commission. They do not inquire into, they make no comment on, its bearing on the question of enlargement of the Medical Service.

But in their treatment of the question of civilian aid you see how the spirit of the Department, grasping at complete control, has permeated the Commission, and set them on the wrong track in this matter. They recommend the mixing up of the Royal Army Medical Corps officers with civilian doctors in medical work—the private hospitals which did such splendid work in the campaign, such as the Yeomanry, the Irish, Scotch, Welsh, and many others. These hospitals, with complete civilian staffs and only one Royal Army Medical Corps officer to form a link with other departments, afford an irrefutable proof of the value of self-organised, self-controlled, independent civilian medical aid, and of the facility with which it can be applied for the period it is required.

Sir, that is my case—or, rather, a small part of my case—against the inquiry that has been held. The inquiry has failed to give any true picture of the extent of the evils, has failed to point out any of the causes, and has failed to push home any of the responsibilities; and by the manner of conducting its proceedings, by the refusal of evidence and the failure to take the right evidence, and by allowing itself to fall into the hands of an organisation on one side of the case, it has reflected grave discredit on English public life. For these reasons I have appealed, and I appeal again, to the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War to go outside of the Report which has resulted from such an inquiry, and to take larger and more practical views in framing his reforms than are to be found in that document.

And, Sir, I venture to make another appeal to the Government, an appeal which perhaps it would not be in order, in connection with this Vote in Supply, for me to make in any larger or more specific terms than by stating this. If we have entered on an era when the demands of our position call not so much for new legislation as that we should put our house in order, and if that can only be done in every department by a full, searching, and relentless investigation of its defects, then the worst model we can adopt for that process, and the weakest and rottenest basis of reform, will be this farce of an inquiry for which we are now voting this large sum of public money.

Mr. DALZIEL said he was sure he was expressing the opinion of many hon. Members on both sides of the House that the hon. Gentleman had no need to make any apology for the very important and valuable speech to which they had just listened. He thought they ought to all associate themselves in the protest that a question of this magnitude and far-reaching importance should be discussed at one o'clock in the morning. He did not say anything about who was responsible; but he called it a public scandal that the only opportunity they had of discussing a matter in which the lives of thousands of our countrymen were involved should be at that hour in the morning. He wished to draw the attention of the Secretary for War to one or two statements on which he thought they were entitled to some explanation. He agreed with the hon. Gentleman that a Commission without powers to take evidence on oath could not present a Report which would be satisfactory. Take the case of the Belfast Riots Commission, where only a few lives were concerned. That

Commission reported that it would be useless to take evidence unless on oath. Not only had the South African Commission no power to take evidence on oath, but they had no power to protect witnesses, and anyone giving evidence was liable to official criticism and censure. He would point out that the Report itself stated that the Royal Army Medical Corps was totally insufficient, and was so constituted that it could not be materially enlarged or have its deficiencies made good, and that these deficiencies were felt throughout the whole of the South African campaign. It then went on to state that for a considerable time before the outbreak of the war the necessity for increasing the staff of the Royal Army Medical Corps was urged upon the military authorities, but for the most part without avail. That was a direct charge that, the corps being insufficient, recommendations had been made that it ought to be increased, and that those recommendations had not been acted upon. The Committee was entitled to know who were responsible for that inaction and neglect. Why was it that when responsible people at the head of the Royal Army Medical Corps recommended that the corps should be increased no attention whatever was paid to their recommendations? That was a very serious charge against the Government, meriting some notice from the right hon. Gentleman in his reply.

There was one other point. At the outbreak of the war the hon. Member for the Ilkeston Division pointed out the inevitable results of typhoid in South Africa, and suggested that a special Commission should go out to assist the Army doctors with their experience. That suggestion was rejected by the authorities on the ground that there was not the same need of special assistance with regard to sanitary matters as with surgical operations. But recently the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State had gone entirely back on that position, and had practically censured the Government by saying that he thought the experience of the war had shown that a Committee of that character would have done good service. It certainly seemed that that refusal required some explanation.

The points he put to the right hon. Gentleman were: Why was it that we went to war with the Royal Army Medical Corps not even up to peace strength and altogether unfit to deal with the conflict in which we were engaged; and, secondly, what justification was there for the Government in not adopting the suggestion with regard to taking proper sanitary precautions? The Committee had every confidence that the right hon. Gentleman would take advantage of the Report and act upon it, but that was not the whole question. We had to do with a state of things in the past which it was no good hushing up or attempting to discuss at one o'clock in the morning. In that Report there were sufficient charges to demand an explanation from the Government, because upon them, after all, rested the responsibility for the neglect.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derby, Ilkeston), having taken an interest in this matter from the beginning, felt bound to say that he was startled and pained by the very grave position in which they found themselves. The hon. Member for Westminster had levelled against the Commission some of the most serious charges ever made against any public inquiry, and which really deserved the grave consideration of the Government. It had been shown that the Commission started without proper powers and never took the trouble to arm itself with those powers; that it refused evidence over and over again; and that citizens of high standing were invited to attend and then the evidence they were prepared to give was practically refused. In the Report the Commissioners themselves virtually admitted the whole case brought forward in the House before the Commission was constituted, for on page 39 they stated—

> "We think that the deficiencies of the staff at Bloemfontein were not thoroughly realised as soon as they might have been, and that more doctors might have been obtained and sent up so as to supply these deficiencies earlier. We cannot think that the deficiencies of transport, which we are fully aware of, could have

prevented doctors being obtained and sent into the town."

The same remarks applied to the lack of nurses. That was an admission of the whole case with regard to the unfortunate men who died at Bloemfontein, and the Report, from beginning to end, if read between the lines, admitted most of the charges which were made in the House.

There were many things which struck one in analysing the Report. In any thorough inquiries, even without professional experience, if animated by a desire to get at the bottom of the matter, one of the first things would be to state the death rate from typhoid fever. But there was nothing of that sort in this document. One gathered from Lord Roberts's telegram that the death rate at that date was about twenty-one per cent. It was as low as twelve and a half in some hospitals and under eight per cent. in others, but there was nothing whatever in the Report to show why our men had died at the rate of twenty-one, or in some places twenty-three per cent. With regard to the supply of beds, it was laid down by authorities on all hands that the minimum supply should be equal to ten per cent. of the force. That question the Commission did not attempt to grapple with, and in the Report it was almost impossible to find the number of beds at any time available for the Army. On the information he had from time to time received it seemed that at no period was the minimum of ten per cent. provided. At the beginning of the active advance there were about 116,000 soldiers in South Africa, and, on the widest computation, only 9,000 instead of 11,600 beds. When the number of men had reached 184,000, the beds numbered only about 12,000, instead of 18,400, so that apparently as the Army increased, the medical appliances and the provisions for the comfort of the troops became less. Even in the middle of last year, after all the debates in the House and the efforts of the War Office to supply the deficiencies, the proper proportion of beds had not been supplied. Taking the Report as it stood, and analysing the figures given as to beds, it presented a very grave condemnation of the medical arrangements in connection with the war. The most amusing thing—if anything concerning this matter could be amusing—was that the only conclusion the Commission, after holding its inquiry in South Africa, could come to, was that another Committee should be appointed to do the work they did not do. The Leader of the House had stated that the object of the Commission was to inquire into the treatment of every wounded and sick soldier in South Africa; but that was the very thing the Commission had not done. They had gone altogether on the wrong track, and the responsibility, no matter on whom it rested, was a very grave one. Instead of carrying out the object with which they were sent, the Commission inquired into the efficiency of the Royal Army Medical Corps, with the view, apparently, of preparing a defence. The Royal Army Medical Corps was not attacked in the House. Mistakes doubtless were made by the corps; there were some bad officers among them, but bad officers had been discovered in almost every branch of the Army in the course of the campaign, and the Royal Army Medical Corps was no worse than other departments. Some men did not do their duty, but, taken man for man, he believed that the Royal Army Medical Corps in this campaign had deserved as well of the country as any other branch of the military service. But the great complaint was that the corps was undermanned from the beginning, and, with all the additions the right hon. Gentleman had been able to make, it was still about 100 less than it was forty years ago. That in itself was a scandal.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (Mr. STUART WORTLEY, Sheffield, Hallam) reminded the hon. Member that the Vote under discussion was for the Commission of Inquiry, and that it would be out of order to discuss thereon the policy of the War Office with regard to the organisation of the Royal Army Medical Corps.

SIR WALTER FOSTER did not wish to go into the question of the re-organisation of the Army Medical Corps. The Report of the Commission assigned its defects to the undermanning of that department, and the result was that we had had to fall back upon civil surgeons. He wished to ask the right hon. Gentleman how he proposed to follow out the recommendations contained in the Report with reference to the Army Medical Corps Corps.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is impossible for an answer to be given to such a question upon this Vote.

SIR WALTER FOSTER said that apparently those recommendations did not come within the purview of the Vote, but he would be able to ask his question, no doubt, on the Army Medical Vote. That would be no inconvenience to him, and perhaps it would be better to discuss it then. The Army Medical Department, in endeavouring to meet the deficiencies, had had to rely upon sending out a large number of civil surgeons. He thought we were bound to recognise that those civil surgeons had rendered a vast amount of service, but they had not received the same amount of consideration that they might have done in view of the large number sent out and the good work they had done. Over 300 of them had been sent out. We had about 468 members of the Royal Army Medical Corps, and no less than 385 civil surgeons had been doing similar work. That additional staff which was obtained during the difficulties in South Africa, was a measure of what we should require in order to meet similar difficulties in the future. He wished to get out of this debate and out of this Report such a consideration of the whole question, as would lessen the sufferings of the soldier on his campaigns in the future by preventing, where-ever possible, the spread of preventible diseases. The Army Medical Department must be kept in such a state of efficiency that what had been called scandals might not occur in the future. It was true that this Report said that there was no such thing as a hospital scandal, but he thought that statement went a little too far. Those who had read the Appendix of the Report must admit that there was a want of proper organisation on the part of the Army medical officers, and a want of supply of those ordinary creature comforts which were absolutely necessary in sickness. The absence of those led not only to an enormous amount of needless suffering, but also to the sacrifice of hundreds of lives. He knew that the right hon. Gentleman was in no way responsible for this, but he hoped that under his *régime* steps would be taken to prevent a repetition of what he thought was one of the most painful features of this campaign, by which many lives had been lost which might, under more favourable conditions, have been saved.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): I do not think that the hon. Member for Kirkcaldy was quite fair when he said that this was a very inconvenient occasion, and, at the same time, the only occasion upon which this subject could be discussed. The hon. Member will remember that we had some discussion on the subject, including a speech from the hon. Member for Westminster, on the King's Speech. Possibly some hours debate has been devoted to less important subjects which might have been devoted to this question. The position at this moment is that we are invited to consider how this Commission performed its duty. My hon. friend the Member for Westminster has made a most vehement attack upon the character of this inquiry and the principles which have guided them. In the few words I propose to say I would like to ask, as a matter of common sense, on what grounds are these motives imputed to this Commission? What can possibly be the grounds upon which my hon. friend thinks he has discovered in the whole action of this Commission the sinister motives of a determination to shield the Army Medical Corps, to burke the inquiry, and to report something that will be favourable to the military authorities? What can be the motive of these independent gentlemen—not one of whom, so far as I know, has anything to gain in the matter from the Government—doing this? They are all independent men with nothing to gain by such action; they are men of the highest character, and what can be the motive which would induce them to act in the way the hon. Member for Westminster says they have acted? I am at a loss to understand what their motive could be.

MR. BURDETT-COUTTS: I would remind the right hon. Gentleman that I did not give my opinions, but I confined myself to giving the facts with regard to the inquiry. I had to give a *précis* of my speech, and I devoted the whole of my remarks to facts and incidents.

*MR. BRODRICK: I hold no brief for the Hospitals Commission, but I know that they are a body of thoroughly high-minded gentlemen who gave an immense amount of time and hard work to this subject, who travelled a great many thousand miles, and who took up this inquiry for a public purpose, and reported on matters as they found them. If their Report is not altogether satisfactory to my hon. friend and to some other hon. Members of this House, I can only say that so far as I am concerned I do not feel that I am bound by the four corners of this Report as to what requires to be done in the Army. In the nature of things it cannot be an exhaustive Report. Looking at this matter quite impartially, I think the hon. Member cast a very unmerited slur upon the Commission when he said that these gentlemen concluded their labours by appointing a Committee to do the very work which they had been appointed to do. That was not an accurate statement of the facts. This Commission was appointed to consider and report upon the care and treatment of the sick and wounded during the South African campaign. They may or may not have carried out that instruction to the satisfaction of some hon. Members of this House, but I think they were fully justified in recommending the appointment of a Committee to inquire into and report on the steps needed to attract in the future a sufficient supply of medical officers and nurses. This Committee which is suggested deals with the future and not with the past. I think hon. Gentlemen who have spoken have pushed these matters against the Commission a great deal too far. I am not going to weary the Committee by dealing in detail with the points raised in the very vigorous indictment which my hon. friend has made, but I wish to refer to a statement which he made with regard to Lord Roberts. The hon. Member said, with a great appearance of force, that Lord Roberts having been called as a witness at Pretoria, it was obvious that no private soldier who afterwards gave evidence would be anxious to give a different opinion. That statement no doubt impressed many hon. Members with the idea that nothing like fair evidence would be obtained. To prove this I think the hon. Member ought to have shown that, whereas the evidence given before Lord Roberts was of one character, the evidence given by officers afterwards was of a totally different character.

MR. BURDETT-COUTTS: I am sorry that the late hour at which I spoke obliged me to leave out some very important parts of my speech. I had intended to close with the sentence that if you had any doubt upon this point, it was only necessary to examine the evidence which followed Lord Roberts's evidence, and it would be found that not a single officer in the Army afterwards gave an opinion opposite to that expressed by Lord Roberts.

MR. BRODRICK: I confess that I can produce one or two pieces of evidence which will hardly bear out that statement. I do not wish to widen the gulf between myself and those hon. Members who look upon this Report as being unsatisfactory, and I hope we shall all took at it as the commencement of the reform of the Army Medical Service. The hon. Member for Kirkcaldy asked why the Army Medical Corps were not fully equipped at the time we entered on the war. I can only remind the House that the blame for this shortage lies as much at the door of this House as at any other point. We have had the Army Medical Corps organised on the principle that three army corps only were necessary, and if that principle had been adhered to I believe that the arrangements organised in regard to the Army Medical Corps would have been sufficient. But instead of three army corps, provision had to be immediately made for six army corps. I well recollect how some remarks I made a fortnight ago, in regard to the necessity of preparing to send out 120,000 men abroad, were received. If this House only allows us to organise the Army Medical Corps to supply 120,000 men, how can you expect the same medical staff to supply the medical requirements of 220,000 men? I may tell the hon. Member that I think the experience of the war will show that a Committee such as that suggested by the Commission would be an extremely valuable one.

Looking at this matter impartially, I think it is regrettable to pass this unmerited slur on men who have, at any rate, tried to do their duty properly according to their lights. I do not think it ought to be supposed for a moment that a Commission appointed to inquire into the care of the sick and wounded during the campaign could cover the whole ground, nor would its Report be the only guide for the future in regard to the reform of the Army Medical Corps. For the re-organisation of the Department I will not look to the Report alone. I am perfectly aware that in the past the condition of the Army Medical Corps has not been satisfactory in several respects. First of all, we have had far too small a choice of men to bring into the corps, and until we remedy that defect we shall not have an efficient Service. We have not had sufficient elasticity in connection with the Service. I approach this question with an absolutely open mind. I do not feel that we can build altogether on the existing foundation. We shall not limit ourselves to official sources for inspiration. I am not in the least without hope that before very long the steps about to be taken will enable us to bring before the House a scheme which will give us a really effective Army Medical Service.

MR. O'SHEE (Waterford, W.) said the right hon. Gentleman had stated that it was an independent and impartial Commission, but was that really so? He had complained of the hon. Member for Westminster attributing sinister motives to the Commission, which was composed of independent gentlemen. It should be remembered what was the position of the Government at the time the Commission was appointed. At that time it was most important for the Government that the Commission they were appointing should bring in a Report in favour of the action of the Government with reference to the provision made for the Army Medical Service in South Africa. It would have been a serious thing for the Government if, as the result of their inquiries, the Commission had found that the Government had failed in their duty to the soldiers in South Africa. The Commission had at its head Lord Justice Romer, who was the legal guide, if he might say so, of the Commission. It had been conclusively proved that in his method of conducting the inquiry he had departed altogether from legal traditions, customs, and forms. What happened? Before the Commission left England the evidence of certain witnesses was tendered, and it was refused by the Commission. The hon. Member thought he was correct in stating that Lord Justice Romer promised that the evidence of those witnesses would be received on the return of the Commission from South Africa. On their return Lord Justice Romer and the other members of the Commission absolutely declined to receive the evidence that was tendered. In an ordinary case in any of the courts of this country such a proceeding in the way of refusing to receive evidence would be rightly regarded as a disgrace to the judicial bench. The case for the accusers of the Government in connection with the provision made for the Army Medical Corps in South Africa was not heard by the Commission, and all the evidence taken was evidence for the defence. On reading the Report they found that it was not the judgment in any sense of an impartial or an independent tirbunal. It was a special plea from beginning to end for the defence and against the accusers. It was a most amusing thing to go through the Report. All through the Report such expressions were to be found as "on the whole," "generally speaking," and "as a rule." The Principal Medical Officer and head medical staff were strongly animadverted upon, and then the Report said—

> "But taking their work as a whole, and considering the difficulties they have had to contend with, we think that the Principal Medical Officer and his head staff have done excellent work."

There were pages devoted to criticising the Principal Medical Officer and his staff and showing how they had failed to do their duty in very important details. The Commission accused the orderlies of general thievery, but their Report also said—

> "Complaints against orderlies in this war have been somewhat numerous, though, on the other hand, the way in which the orderlies as a body discharged their duties has deservedly been the subject of high praise from many witnesses of experience."

With respect to the condition of the Field Hospital of the 12th Brigade at Bloemfontein the Report says—

> "This hospital was in many respects unsatisfactory, but the results on the patients were not so bad as might have been anticipated."

The whole Report showed a lack of organisation and want of attention to detail. Even the headings of the various portions of the Report confirmed this—as, for instance, "Delay in bringing up hospitals," "Delay in bringing up medical staff," "Delay in moving patients from railway stations," and so on. The Report from beginning to end was a special plea on behalf of the defendants in the dock for their treatment of the soldiers of the Queen in South Africa. It appeared to him, in reading the Report, that Lord Justice Romer probably had most to do with the drafting of it, but that on the one hand he had the angel of truth compelling him to put in these reservations and exceptions, while on the other hand stood the angel of whitewash, because the Report proved that the Commission was a whitewashing Commission and nothing else. His Lordship therefore had a very difficult part to play in framing the Report, and under all the circumstances he did his task extremely well.

As an Irish Member he had no sympathy with Irishmen who joined the King's Army, and he had done his best to persuade them not to do so. But when unfortunate Irishmen, through poverty, had been driven to enter the Army he was entitled to intervene in the debate in order to criticise the action of the Government and the Royal Army Medical Corps in not properly providing for the comfort of the men who were fighting the battles of the country. He moved to reduce the Vote by £1,000.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Item, Class 7, Vote 1, be reduced by £1,000."—(*Mr. O'Shee.*)

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick's) drew the attention of the Committee to the case of a Unionist friend of his who, joining the Army, was sent to South Africa. While there he fell sick and was put into one of the bell-tents. For five days he was lying on the ground without a blanket and without any sanitary accommodation whatever. He was half-starved, and it was only his strong Irish constitution which kept him alive. The doctor never went near him, he had no medicine or treatment of any kind, and apparently nobody cared whether the wounded and sick lived or died. In contrast to that, another friend of his, who went out with the Irish Yeomanry, was taken prisoner by the Boers, and the man said that the Boers treated him as a prisoner a great deal better than our own men were treated in our own hospitals. He fully agreed that the Report was a whitewashing Report. The gentlemen who went out were no doubt impelled by the highest motive, but that highest motive was to get the Government out of a difficulty. There was not the slightest doubt that this eminent judge was put at the head of the Commission in order that no damaging admissions should appear, and the result was that the Government had got a Report according to order, and the Committee were expected to swallow everything contained therein. The War Office and the officials responsible ought undoubtedly to be brought to justice at the bar of public opinion. This was nothing else but a public scandal in regard to the way the wounded were treated, and he promised his friend that he would make the case public. He was prepared to give the gentleman's name, only he told him that he did not want to pose as a martyr. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would take these facts into consideration.

*MR. TULLY thought very grave and serious charges had been made by the hon. Member for Westminster, and he had proved his case up to the hilt, and they were entitled to have a clear and sufficient answer to that case from the Government. He thought this Hospitals Commission was simply an electioneering Commission sent out for the purposes of the General Election. The right hon. Gentleman had stated that the members of this Commission were impartial and disinterested, but he did not say that two of them had got titles which they never would otherwise have got. When the Government appointed Commissions to inquire into the riots at Belfast and the Broadhead outrages at Sheffield they were given power to protect witnesses who gave evidence; but in the case of this Commission, which dealt with the lives of thousands of soldiers, that power was refused. That being the case, how could they expect any other result than the very limited Report which was presented to the House? The hon. Member for Westminster had told them plainly how the wounded were treated. He knew a private in the Irish Yeomanry who fought at Lindley, and he received a slight injury which ought to have healed in a week or two with proper treatment, but in consequence of being dealt with by an incompetent doctor at the front that soldier was now limping about Dublin with one leg. That would not have happened if they had not tried to run the Army on society lines, with society generals and society doctors. There were numbers of men in Ireland who had lost their limbs through merely trivial wounds, and this could have been prevented if their injuries had been attended to at the time by competent doctors. The Report presented was simply a whitewashing Report, and the £8,000 spent on this Commission was simply for official whitewash. He hoped his hon. friend would press his motion to a division.

DR. THOMPSON (Monaghan, N.) said he could not sit silently and hear the Army Medical Department abused. It was not the officers, but the system under which they worked that was to blame. He knew a large number of medical officers engaged in this war, and they told him in communications that they knew where to get the supplies, but the system was such that, although they went and begged for these things for the sick and wounded, they could not get them. After the letters of the hon. Member for Westminster appeared in *The Times* then all these difficulties were removed. There could not be the smallest doubt that not only this House, but the country and every British soldier, owed to the hon. Member for Westminster a debt of gratitude for what he had done. He did not hesitate to say that the action of the hon. Member for Westminster had been instrumental in saving the lives of thousands of men in South Africa. He did not blame the Government so much, because they had sent out large quantities of every sort of supplies; but the system of distribution was such that it destroyed the vitality of the service. He knew a case where a soldier had his hand blown off, and when the medical officer came to amputate the limb there was no antiseptic for him to use. They were not allowed to keep such things in small establishments, and they could not be supplied within ten days. He knew another case where there was an outbreak of diphtheria, and the medical officer had to buy diphtheric anti-toxine because the Government had not provided any. Those were absolute facts, and he felt sure that the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War, who had shown such a great interest in reforms in the Army, and had proposed such an elaborate scheme, would do all that was possible to remedy the state of things which existed in the Army Medical Service at present. As regarded the Army Medical men themselves, amid great dangers, wherever their services were required they were always there. They never spared themselves in the Crimea, and they had not spared themselves in South Africa.

Mr. CREAN (Cork, S.E.) contended that the system under which the Army Medical Corps worked was bad and defective, and it was not right to try and throw the blame for what had occurred during this campaign on the doctors. These men did not wish to pose as martyrs. In fact, some of them were rather doubtful of the results that would accrue to themselves for the sacrifices they had made for the honour of Great Britain. It was clear that the evidence of the men who had suffered most had not been accepted. This was proof positive that the Commission was appointed not to find facts or to bring home any defects in the system, but to make it appear to the public that the statements made by the hon. Gentleman, who was not an opponent but a supporter of the Government, were exaggerated. The Commission was a fraudulent Commission from the beginning, and was sent out to South Africa to cover up the defects of the system, and to bring a plausible Report before the country, to exonerate the Gentlemen on the Front Bench who were responsible for the muddle in South Africa. It was not a Commission that did any practical good, and it was never intended to do anything else than purely and solely to whitewash the Government. The Report was not worth £8,000; in fact, it was not worth the cost of the paper on which it was printed. His contention was not that the doctors had neglected their duty in the field, or that they were inefficient as individuals, but that the system as a whole was inefficient, and that the staff were not numerous enough to cope with the difficulties with which they were surrounded. The war was entered into without sufficient food, supplies, clothing, or medicines. The Commission did no earthly good. If any good was done it was by the hon. Member for Westminster, who, however, had been closured when he wanted to bring forward evidence to prove every charge that had been made. It was a clever move on the part of the Commission to ask the head of the Army to give his evidence first. That was done intentionally to prevent any underling, or non-commissioned officer, or private giving true evidence. He himself had seen men driven mad by their sufferings and neglect. He had taken a man to the police quarters who had been driven out of barracks by his colleagues.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 154; Noes, 72. (Division List No. 77.)

AYES

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy

Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Arthur
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John

Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cubitt, Hon. Henry

Dalkeith, Earl of
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Dewar, T. R. (T'r H'mlets, S. Geo.
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir J. P.
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart

Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton

Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes

Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Goschen, Hn. George Joachim
Greene, Sir E W (Bry S. Edm'nds
Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
Grenfell, William Henry
Groves, James Grimble
Guthrie, Walter Murray

Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (Mid'x
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'd
Harris, F Leverton (Tynemouth
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath, James (Staffords. N. W.)
Hope, J. F. (Sheff'ld, Brightside
Howard, Capt J (Kent, Faversh.

Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)

Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop)

Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S
Lowther, C. (Cumb. Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth

Macartney, Rt. Hn. W G Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maxwell, W J H (Dumfriesshire
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
Morgan, Dav. J. (Walthamstow
Morgan, Hn. Fred (Monm'thsh.
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H A (Deptford)
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry

Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian

O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens

Pemberton, John S. G.
Penn, John
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert

Randles, John S.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Royds, Clement Molyneux

Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, H C (North'mb Tyneside
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stock, James Henry
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napie

Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray

Valentia, Viscount

Walker, Col. William Hall
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Welby, Lt.-Col. A C E (Taunton)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton under L.
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Dalziel, James Henry
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Elibank, Master of
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Field, William
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, Rt. Hn Herbert John
Hammond, John
Hardie, J Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Leamy, Edmund
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lundon, W.
M'Crae, George
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mooney, John J.
Murphy, J.
Nolan, Col. J. P. (Galway, N.

O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, Jas (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shee, James John
Reddy, M.
Redmond, J. E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roche, John
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Soares, Ernest J.
Sullivan, Donal
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings
Thomas, J. A. (Glam., Gower)
Thompson, E. C. (Monaghan, N.
Tully, Jasper
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

Question put accordingly, "That the Item, Class 7, Vote 1, be reduced by £1,000."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 72; Noes, 153. (Division List No. 78.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allen, C. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Barry, E. (Cork. S.)
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Dalziel, James Henry
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Elibank, Master of
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Field, William
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh'e
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Leamy, Edmund
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lundon, W.
M'Crae, George
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mooney, John J.
Murphy, J.
Nolan, Col. J. P. (Galway, N.)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shee, James John
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roche, John
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Soares, Ernest J.
Sullivan, Donal
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, F. Freeman (Hastings
Thomas, J. A. (Glam., Gower)
Thompson, E. C. (Monaghan, N.
Tully, Jasper
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Wilson, Jhn. (Durham, Mid.)
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John

Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Arthur
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John

Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, A. C. (Glasgow)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cubitt, Hon. Henry

Dalkeith, Earl of
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Dewar, T. R. (T'r H'mlts, S. Geo.
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. H.

Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Greene, Sir E W (B'ry S Edm'nds
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs)
Grenfell, William Henry
Groves, James Grimble
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt. Hn Lord G (Mid'x
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Rbt. Wm.
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'rd
Harris, F Leverton (Tynemouth
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath, J. (Staffords, N. W.)
Hope, J. F (Sheffield, Brightside
Howard, Capt. J (Kent, Faversh
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W (Salop.
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt Hn Walter (Bristol, S.)

Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Macartney, Rt Hn W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Killop, Jas. (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maxwell, W J H (Dumfriesshir)
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morgan, Hn. F. (Monm'thsh.)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nichol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Pemberton, John S. G.
Penn, John
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col Samuel Alexander
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Seely, Chas. Hilton (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smith, H C. (North'mb. Tynes'e
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stock, James Henry
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Welby, Lt-Col A. C. E (Taunton
Whiteley, H Ashton und. Lyne
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

Tellers for the Noes—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR claimed, "That the Original Question be now put."

*The CHAIRMAN accepted the motion, and proceeded to put the question.

Mr. FIELD (remaining seated and speaking with his hat on) asked if this would preclude them from discussing two very important Votes relating to salmon fisheries and the Port of London.

*The CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the House having claimed that the main question be now put, and I having accepted that motion, I am afraid the hon. Member will be precluded from further discussion.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): May I ask, Mr. Lowther, on a point of order, what is the main question? Is the question you are putting the total sum of £893,000?

*The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND: Oh! Nobody heard the question put.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) asked if it would be in order to exempt the Vote dealing with the funeral of Her late Majesty, because this would be the only opportunity afforded to the House of discussing that Vote.

*The CHAIRMAN: There is no means of exempting that item.

Original Question put accordingly, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £893,316, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for Civil Services and Revenue Departments."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 159; Noes, 64. (Division List No. 79.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Bathurst, Hon. A. Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Arthur
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)

Cranborne, Viscount
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davies,SirHoratioD(Chatham
Dewar,T.R(T'rH'ml'ts,S.Geo.
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dimsdale,SirJoseph Cockfield
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. John
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon,Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Goschen, Hn. George Joachim
Greene,SirE.W.(BySEdm'nds
Greene,W.Raymond-(Cambs.)
Grenfell, William Henry
Groves, James Grimble
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,RtHnLordG.(Mid'x
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Rbt. Wm.
Hardy-Laurence,(Kent;Ashfd
Harris,FLeverton(Tynemouth
Heath,ArthurHoward(Hanley
Heath, James (Staffords,N.W.
Hope,J.F.(SheffieldBrightside
Howard,Capt.J.(KentFaversh
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Kenyon, Hn. G. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W.(Salop
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Bristol,S
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas,Col.Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J.(Portsm'th)
Macartney,RtHnW.G.Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maxwell,W.J.H(Dumfriessh.)
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robt. Jas. (Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow
Morgan,Hn.Fred.(Monm'thsh
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton,ArthurHA.(Deptford)
Mount, William Arthur
Murray,Rt.Hon. A. G. (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry
Newdigate, Francis Alex.
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Pemberton, John S. G.
Penn, John
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley,Hn.M.W.(Stalybridge
Ridley,S.Forde(BethnalGreen
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
Robertson,Herbert (Hackney)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler,Col.Samuel Alexander
Seely,Charles Hilton(Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart,M.H.(Renfrew)
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith,AbelH.(Hertford,East)
Smith,HC(North'mb.Tynesi'e
Smith,James Parker(Lanarks)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley,Hn.Arthur(Ormskirk
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stock, James Henry
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt,Hon. Humphrey Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomas,Alfred(Glamorgan,E.
Thomas, J. A. (Glam., Gower
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm.Edw.Murray
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkney
Welby,Lt.-Col.ACE(Taunton
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-u.-Lyne
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson,A.Stanley (York,E.R.
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C.B.Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc.,Stroud
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Boyland, John
Boyle, James
Brown, Geo. M. (Edinburgh)
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Dalziel, James Henry
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Elibank, Master of
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Field, William
Gilhooly, James
Hammond, John
Hardie,JKeir(MerthyrTydvil)
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne,Rt.Hon.Charles Seale-
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Leamy, Edmund
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lundon, W.
M'Crae, George
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mooney, John J.
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Murphy, J.
Nolan,Col.JohnP.(Galway,N.
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipper'ryMid
O'Connor, T. P. Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shee, James John
Reddy, M.
Redmond,JohnE.(Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roche, John
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Soares, Ernest J.
Sullivan, Donal
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas,FFreeman-(Hastings
Thompson,EC.(Monaghan,N.
Tully, Jasper
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)

Tellers for the Noes—Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

Resolutions to be reported To-morrow; Committee to sit again To-morrow.

Adjourned at Three of the clock a.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 20th March, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

DORKING GAS BILL.

LONG EATON GAS BILL.

MIDLAND RAILWAY BILL.

TORRINGTON AND OAKHAMPTON RAILWAY BILL.

TOTTENHAM AND HAMPSTEAD JUNCTION RAILWAY BILL.

Read a second time, and committed.

WOLVERHAMPTON AND CANNOCK CHASE RAILWAY BILL.

Ordered, That the Minutes of Evidence taken before the Committee on the Wolverhampton and Essington Mineral Railway Bill of Session 1898, the London and North Western (New Railways) Bill of Session 1899, and the Wolverhampton, Essington, and Cannock Chase Junction Railway Bill of Session 1900, be referred to the Committee on Group No. 2. in respect of the Wolverhampton and Cannock Chase Railway Bill.—(*Mr. Hargreaves Brown.*)

PETITIONS.

AGRICULTURAL RATES ACT 1896.

Petitions against re-enactment, from Cardiff; and Burnley; to lie upon the Table.

BEER BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Leicester; and Halvergate; to lie upon the Table.

BURIAL PLACES (EXEMPTION FROM RATES) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Renfrew, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE.

Petition from Attleborough, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

COAL MINES (EMPLOYMENT) BILL.

Petition from Buckley, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Burnley; Barry; Northampton; Wolverhampton; and Bacup; to lie upon the Table.

INHABITED HOUSE DUTY AND INCOME TAX.

Petition from Blackheath and other places, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

INMAN, JAMES.

Petition of James Inman, for redress of grievances; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING (SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS.)

Petition from Lindfield, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT (1894) AMENDMENT BILL.

Petition from Renfrew, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petition from Buckley, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

OFFICERS OF THE INDIAN STAFF CORPS.

Petition of Captain F. H. Domenichetti, for redress of grievances; to lie upon the Table.

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.

Petition from Halifax, for extension to women; to lie upon the Table.

POLICE SUPERANNUATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Rothesay, against; to lie upon the Table.

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1896.

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Nottingham; Stafford; Pontypool; Ledbury; and Esher; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petition from Esher, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Petition from Banff, against; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Sheffield (ninety-seven); Airdrie; Hamilton (two); Sussex; Pontardulais; Gorseinon (two); Manchester (twenty-three); Llanidloes (five); Lower Broughton; Lincoln (five); Altrincham (two); Hoole; Chester (thirty-five); Bridport (two); North Salford (eight); Saltney (two); Fulham (two); Cullompton; Hither Green (two); Lockwood; Teignmouth; Forest Hill; Huddersfield (four); St. Leonards (nine); Woking; Crayford; Bury (two); Wilmington; Dartford; Edinburgh (eleven); Rochester; Okehampton; West Devon; Rawtenstall (two); Oldham (three); Llanrwst; Everton (seven); Ilford; Crosland Moor; Bonnybridge; Strathcarron; Liverpool (thirty-one); Stonehouse; Croston; Chorley (six); Newton Heath; Cardiff (twelve); Mid Glamorgan; Cadoxton; Grangetown (two); Barry; Gargrave; Bacup; Nelson; Stockport (five); Leeds (thirty-five); New Wortley (three); Bramley (two); Kingston-on-Thames; Armley (five); Lewisham (two); Truro; Deptford (ten); Maryport; Holbeck (two); Hull (six); Walthamstow; Birmingham (eight); Nottingham (five); Preston (two); Worthing (three); Heaton; Hastings (eight); Hammersmith (two); Meopham (two); Rhyl (four); Ancoats; Milton; Cavendish; Ruabon; Ponkey; Fowey; Chisworth; Bradwell; Buxton; Bath (two); Cheltenham; Hayfield; Seaford; Silverdale; Tunstall; Eccles (two); Stockbridge; Barnsbury; Eastbourne; Leigh (four); Lowton; Hailsham; Gorton; Longsight; Hulme; Leeswood; Beighton; Bamsford; Tyldesley; West Bromwich (nine); Settle; Walmer; Whitstable; Ringmer; Wortley; Herne Bay; Atherton; Deal (two); Uphall; Springbourn; Glasgow (twenty); Stratford; Forest Gate; Hurgate; Ilfracombe; York (eight); Swinton (three); Walkden; Pendlebury; Hunslet (eleven); Plymouth (nine); Worsley (two); Weston; Farnley (four); Bristol (seventeen); Hungerford; Wynchcomb; Caistor; Ecclesfield (three); Lancaster; Appleby; Easingwold; Leadhills; Downfield; Mains; Aberdeen (two); Kennington (four); Risca; Bletchley; Newcastle-under-Lyme; Tarbrax; Onslow Square; Saffron Walden (two); West Newington; South Kensington; Tilehurst; Hindley Green; Weston; Lamberhead Green (two); Belgrave Hall; Leicester (eleven); Dumfries; Tonyrefail; South Lambeth; Rock Ferry (eight); Salford (seven); Dinas (two); Tonypandy (two); Llwynpia; Trealaw; Chiswick; Port Sunlight (two); Ealing (seven); Haven Green (three); Clydach; Gowerton; Llansamlet; West Glamorgan (two); Bromley; Birkenhead (nineteen); Berwickshire; Sevenoaks (two); Leatherhead; Skipton; Petersham; Mortlake; Llanfairfechan; Winchmore Hill; Powerstock; Abercarn (two); South Monmouth; Wadesley Bridge (two); Stocksbridge (three); Gleadless; Grenoside (three); Wylye; Falkirk; Metropolitan Tabernacle; Hawridge; High Wycombe; Bourne End; Lambeth (three); Wareham; Leek (two); Halifax (three); Lavender Hill (two); Chesterton; Kilmarnock; Govan (two); Leith (four); Walkley (two); Owlerton; Musselburgh; North Leith (two); Rotherham (four); Clapham (four); Swallownest; Hartlepool (three); Croston; New Brighton (two); Cheadle; Hoylake; Oxton (two); Keadby; Epworth; Walworth (two); Upper Tooting; Great Meols; Claughton;

Wallasey; Grangemouth (two); South Ayrshire; Dunipace; Camelon; Kilsyth; Balfron; Lennoxtown; Stenhousemuir; Ashbourne; Beeston; Melbourne (two); Millburn; Lugen; Girvan; Sunderland (three); Paisley; Ruabon; Stockton; Uppermill; Thornley; Darlington; Copthorne; Springburn; Broompark; Warrington (five); Stockport (three); Hoots-with-Warsash; Woodhouse; Street (two); Winsford; Kings Heath; Wavertree; Burntisland (two); Kirkcaldy; Wandsworth (five); Putney (four); Balham; Tulse Hill; Earlsfield; Portsmouth; Briercliffe (two); Sarisbury Green; Tooting; Kirkstall; Headingley; Macclesfield; Woodhouse Carr (three); Lumb; Higher Tranmere; Seacombe (two); Tranmere (four); Widnes (two); New Ferry; Hoylake; Wigan; Bridge-of-Weir (three); Burley; Moortown; Marsden; Durham; Jarrow-on-Tyne; South London (three); Friern Barnet (four); Rochdale (nine); Rishton; Oswaldtwistle (two); Bowes Park; Long Clawson; Brighton; Newbold; Newton Abbot; Westbury-on-Trym; Bovey Tracey; Waterloo; Bedminster; Tow Law; Buddug; Higher Openshaw; Stepney (two); Barnsley (four); St. Neots (two); Chagford; Heywood; Ness Bank; Inverness; Bangor; London; Rusholme (two); Barrhead; Saltcoats; Darvel; Newmilns; Kenley; Smitham Bottom; Droylsden (two); Brockley (two); Hill Cliffe; Hebburn; Alnwick; Woodford; Southport; Chailey; Ancoats; Accrington; Great Harwood; Salford Dock; Kilbarchan; East Greenwich; Sleaford (three); Wimbledon; Mynyddislwyn; Risca; Machen; Sandwich; Ramsgate; Ludlow; Burnage (two); Garston; Kendal; Hampstead; Kingston-upon-Hull (two); Clones; Old Trafford; West Becchar; Festiniog; Bala; Glyndyfrdwg; Levenshulme; Totterdown; Hollington; Stonegate; Stourbridge; Corris; Dolgelly; Kerridge; Bollington (two); Rainow; Langley; Macclesfield (five); Sutton; Hindsfield; Middlesbrough (nine); Burnley; Ulverstone; Slaugham; Bolney (two); Askam-in-Furness (two); Dalton-in-Furness; Wem; Corwen (four); Festiniog; Llandarwg (three); L'andrillo; Trawsfynydd; Harlech (two); Carrog (two); Blaenau (two); Tan-y-Grisian (three); Llanbedr and Pensarn; Dundee (twenty-eight); Walton; Small Heath (two); Gloucester (two); Knaresborough; North Camberwell; Sherburn Hill (five); Malden; Brighouse; Harrogate; Alva (two); Port Dundas (two); Holywell; Govanhill; Summerseat; Perth; Lochee (two) Brislington; Taunton (four); Driffield (two); Bingley (two); Guiseley; Colsterworth (two); Renfrew; Hyde; Egremont; Southport (four); North Meols; Battersea (twelve); Mottram-in-Longdendale; Torquay; Bolton (eight); Camberwell (seven); Farnborough; Cheltenham; Wandsworth Common (two); United Kingdom Alliance; Seaton Burn; Throckley; Elswick; Malvern (two); Brixton (three); Margate (two); Westgate-on-Sea; West Norwood; Newcastle-on-Tyne (eight); Dartmouth (six); Caerswys (two); Brechin (two); Arbroath; Penwith; North Ormesby (two); Llandinam; Montrose; Upper Norwood; Streatham (three); Cottingley; Marple; Hetton-le-Hole; Midgley and Warley; Hay (six); Kennington; Hayle; Luton; Great Driffield; Arthington; Ambleside; Highbridge (two); Northumberland; Cupar; Sutton; North Malvern; Romsey; Richard Rutter and others; Plaistow; Newbury; Cambois; Crosby; Carlisle; Holywell; Chryston; Mile End (two); Whitechapel; Cheetham; Meanwood; Shadwell; Winsford; Heywood; Runcorn; Northwich; Southampton (three); Scholes; Brecknock; Sunnybridge; Smallbridge; Rhawl; Fareham; Ashton-in-Makerfield (three); Coupar Angus; New Mills (two); Elgin (two); Earlestown; Wolverhampton (three); Farnworth; Southsea; Irwell Bank; North Devon; Loughborough; Pease's West (three); Walsingham; Tow Law (three); West Auckland; Middleton-in-Teesdale (two); Billy Row; Frosterley; St. Helens; Rawmarsh (six); Airdrie; Hayfield; Chapel-en-le-Frith; National British Women's Temperance Association; Emsworth; Portsmouth (two); Deerness; Waterbeck; Hatcham Park; Whitehaven; Hayfield; St. Johns; Slaithwaite; Rowarth; Shaldon; Westboro'; Batley Carr (three); Dewsbury (ten); Ravensthorpe (two); Dewsbury Moor; Thornhill Lees; Hanging Heaton; Lee (four); Moss

Side; Colne (eighteen); Trawden (two); Morley (two); Mirfield (two); Winewace; Tonbridge; Portobello; Slateford; Dalkeith; Brighouse (two); Warrington; Partick; Blackburn (four); Prestwich (two); Higham; Barugh Green; Lower Broughton; High Flatts; Linton; Hooley Hill (two); Ashton-under-Lyne; Ryecroft; Southwark (two); Broughton Park; Netherton; Penryn (two); Stamford Hill; Harwood; Ruthin (five); King's Cross; Savile Town; Colwyn Bay (two); Hurst; Surrey Gardens; Withiel; St. Blazey; Blackfrars; Venjan Green; Newquay; Llanrwst; Nailsworth; Sittingbourne; Varteg (two); Whitehaven; Scone; Limehouse Fields; Dunston-on-Tyne Hockley; Britleg; Cheetham Hill; North Kensington; Stockwell; Greenlaw; Ashfield; Newtown; Falmouth; Fraserburgh; Duns; Llanrhaiadr; Ardsley; Gavinton; Woolwich; Blaenavon; Llanarmon Duffryn; Talywain; Plumstead (two); Middlewich; Marlow; Penn; Flackwell Heath; Slough; Woodhouse (two); Woolston; Branston; Aberaman; Merthyr Vale; Penarth (four); Moreton-in-Marsh; Astley Bridge; Prescot; Stonehouse; Tenby; Blaenconin; Pembroke Dock; St. Davids (seven); Leonard Stanley; Swanage; Park; West Marylebone (two); Shenley (two); Little Heath; Partick (two); Maenclochog; Reigate; Tarbolton; Dumbarton; Renfrew; Redhill; Altrincham; Sale; Thornton Heath (two); Purley; Croydon (seven); Brow; Bretherton; Polmont; Aberdare (two); Knighton; Norton Canes; South Leeds; Newport; Ilkeston (two); Merthyr Tydfil (two); Kilsyth; Durham; Stockton-on-Tees; Teddington; Dreghorn; Clun; Frenchay; Tibshelf; South Normanton; Cambridge; Compton; Pinxton; Alfreton; Swanwick; Chesterfield (seven); Stanhope; Ulverstone; Lindal; Ayrshire; Clay Cross; Bradford (three); Auchinleck (two); Old Cumnock; Galston; Kenley; Whiteleaf; Hampton Hill; Eastwood (two); Catford; Mansfield; Aspley Guise; Wellington; Brompton Ralph; Furnace; Reading (five); Stockdaleworth; North Shields; Oban; Kidderminster; Aspatria (two); Watchet (three); Lewisham (four); Blackheath (two); Earlsfield; Longtown (two); Mowbray; Abbey Town; Wrexham; Tottenham; Matlock; Clifton; Hathersage; Winswall; Burn Cross; Morton; Grantham; Humberstone; Wincobank; Hoyland Common (two); Tetney; Clydach Vale; Trealaw; Twyford; Wokingham; Paddington; Ascot; South Molton; King's Nympton; Dolton; Boston; Melton Mowbray; Peckham (two); Trowbridge (three); Bedford; St. George in the East; Bognor; East Dulwich (four); Chadwell-Heath; East Ham (two); Kentish Town; South Lambeth; Ynyscynhaiarn (two); Portmadoc; Exeter (nine); Chelsea; Newington Green (two); Stoke Newington (three); South Saint Pancras; Chester (three); Redditch; Acocks Green; Kingsbridge (three); Romford; Upton Park; Sherborne; Glanadda (two); Pwllheli; Totnes; Somerset; Shirebrook; Somerton; Wincanton; Henstridge; Newark; Hornsea; Buckfastleigh (three); Castle Cary; North West Surrey; Bucklow; Willingdon; Ore; Furness Vale; Richmond (Surrey) (two); Amberley; Redditch; Chippenham; Guisborough; and Caersws; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions against, from Scottish License Trade Defence Association; Kirriemuir; and Border Counties Wine, Spirit, and Beer Trade Defence Association; to lie upon the Table.

Petitions in favour, from Dunkeld; Dalbeattie; Shettlestone (two); Coatdyke (two); Coatbridge (two); Auldearn; Macduff; Dundee (nine); Edinburgh (four); Pitlochry; Glasgow (eleven); Vale of Leven; Stromness; Locharbriggs; Waterbeck; Penpont; Dufftown; Brechin (four); Rothesay; Kirkintilloch; Ayr (two); Greenock; Paisley (six); Carnoustie; Alva; Lochee; Perth; Mortlach; Pontgordon; Portessie; Aberdour; Thornton; Pollokshields (two); Gamrie; Inverbervie; Stenhousemuir; Montrose; Thornbridge; Laurieston; Tranent; Buckie; St. Cyrus; Dumfries (six); Peterculter; Ayton; Bonnyrigg; Govanhill; Govan (four); Newhaven; Ceres; Musselburgh (two); Troon;

Muirkirk; Kirk Wynd; Dunipace; Moybole; Duns (two); Bridge of Allan; Bannockburn; Cupar; Colmsnell; Laurieston; Denny; New Kilpatrick; Kirkcaldy (two); Darvel; Anderston; Inverness (two); Nikhill; Barrhead; Saltcoats; Stewarton; Kilmarnock; Golspie; Kilmalcolm; Bellshill; Elie; Carluke; Scottish Temperance Federation; Nairn; Strathpeffer; Riccarton; Kirkmaiden; Kirkcowan; Coylton; Galston (three); Newmilns; Parton; Peebles (three); Alyth; Granton; Leith (three); Kirriemuir; Broughty Ferry; Coldstream; and Bonhill; to lie upon the Table.

Petition from Edinburgh, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NATIONAL DEBT ANNUITIES.

Account presented of the gross Amount of all Bank Annuities and any Annuities for terms of years transferred, and of all Sums of Money paid to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, and the Gross Amount of Annuities for Lives and for terms of years, etc., granted within the year ended 5th January, 1901 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 88.]

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL v. LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.

Return presented relative thereto [ordered 19th March; *Sir Thomas Esmonde*]; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER: (Kent, Thanet): Upon a point of order I wish to call attention to the order of leave which provides "for a Bill to prevent the sale of intoxicating liquors to children." Upon a reference to the standard work of Sir Erskine May upon the practice of Parliament in regard to the withdrawal of Bills I find it laid down that in preparing Bills care must be taken that they do not contain provisions which are not authorised by the order of leave. Sir Erskine May also draws attention in a footnote to cases where breaches of this fundamental rule have been brought to the notice of the House, and the decisions have been based upon the special circumstances of each individual case. A reference to Clause 2 of this Bill will show that it goes far beyond the order of leave. The Bill provides for certain penalties upon—

> "Every holder of a licence who sells or delivers or allows any person to sell or deliver any description of intoxicating liquor to any person apparently under the age of sixteen years."

The House having granted leave for the introduction of this Bill I think we are justified in asking how far compliance has been made with that order of leave. The order of leave confines the operation of the Bill to the sale of intoxicating liquors to "children," and this is not a mere verbal quibble. Petitions have just been read and presented to the House showing signatories in large numbers who were no doubt guided by those terms. We find that whereas the Bill as sanctioned on its introduction goes merely to the length of prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors to children, the present Bill—altogether apart from the question whether it is right or wrong—would prevent a boy messenger under sixteen years of age from fetching articles bought by any subscriber to a co-operative store, and would make it a penal offence for the manager of the store to deliver the goods to a messenger boy. I know that this is not the proper occasion to discuss that point, but I merely point to it as an illustration of the very great length to which the Bill has gone beyond the order of leave. To restrain the delivery of goods to a person by a manager on behalf of a person whose credit is pledged would be a proceeding wholly different to that sanctioned by the order of leave. Sir Erskine May gives several illustrations where Bills were withdrawn because they did not comply with the order of leave. This was the case with Bills relating to the qualifications of Members and election expenses. I venture to say that, whatever your decision may be, Mr. Speaker, it will be in the public interest that the House should watch the strict observation of this rule.

*MR. SPEAKER: It is quite true that the title of this Bill might have been made somewhat fuller and clearer. The words of the title are "Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children," and, no doubt, in strict legal phraseology these words imply contract of sale between the publican and the child itself. It would have been clearer if the words had been "Sale or Delivery" or "Sale or Supply," or some words of that kind. But, at the same time, it must be borne in mind that in sales of the kind which are dealt with by this Bill delivery almost invariably accompanies the sale, and in common parlance people often speak of the sale of liquor to children as meaning the handing of goods over the counter to children in the course of sale. I do not think the House has been misled at all by the title of this Bill. The words "Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children" may be viewed in their popular sense, and not necessarily in their strict legal sense. Under the circumstances, therefore, I see no reason why the hon. Member should not proceed.

*MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire): In rising to move the Second Reading of this Bill, I may say that I do so entirely owing to the good fortune of the ballot. I drew a high place, and being fancy free and pledged to no Bill, I resolved to bring forward a Bill with these three qualifications—in the first place a Bill which was not a party measure; secondly, a Bill dealing with a subject for which the country was clearly ripe for legislation upon; and thirdly, a Bill which was quite within the limits of private Members' Bills. In the Bill I have brought forward I find all these qualities, for it has warm supporters both on this and the opposite side of the House, and has been recommended by both sections of a Royal Commission. This is a moderate temperance reform, and what hon. Gentleman in any part of this House does not affect to be a moderate temperance reformer? Nothing is more significant than the change of spirit that has come over the advocacy of temperance in recent years. There was a time when temperance measures seemed to fall between two extremes. On the one side it was felt there was no way of reforming the liquor traffic except by reforming it out of existence altogether; while, on the other side, it was held that the slightest reform was an undue interference with the liquor trade. A new spirit has arisen, and a new party has arisen, and that party is the great majority of the people of the country at large. The country finds that the question of temperance is no longer a question of argument, but one for action. They have realised the evil that drink is producing on the nation.

The right hon. Gentleman the Home Secretary the other day gave us an eloquent picture of the connection between drink and crime. The question is not only one of morals only, but one which involves our very national existence. Nothing is more certain than that in the future we shall have a keen struggle with the other nations of the world for the supremacy of our commerce. That struggle will be of an internecine character, and we shall always be seriously handicapped in the struggle as long as the stain of drink is upon us. The future still lies before us, and we can still save the children of this country. It is they who will have to carry on this struggle when it has passed from our hands, and it is to save them from this danger that I ask the House to pass the Second Reading of this Bill. It would be easy for me to give painful cases which have arisen of this danger which have been brought before the special Commission in evidence. Remember that those cases are given in evidence not by hysterical philanthropists but by hardened officials. I wish to save the time of the House, and I will only give a short abstract of what the evidence brought before the Commission shows. That evidence overwhelmingly proves that the public-house is no place for a young child. I wish to make no accusation against the publicans. I believe that they do their best to prevent drunkenness, and there are many perfectly respectable public-houses. But I do not believe that even in the case of the most respectable public-house any respectable working man would like his child to be familiarised with what goes on there. If this is true of the most respectable public-house, how much more must it be of those in a low gin-drinking locality of a great town. They are simply focuses of all the vice, the impurity, and the drunkenness of the district, and it has been shown that of those who enter such public-houses quite 14 per cent. of them are children who are sent as messengers.

That is the first point which the evidence proves, but there is a second and more important point. The sending of children to the public-house in this manner teaches them to drink. There is no doubt whatever of this. Anybody who knows children and their imitative ways will not be surprised that they readily try to taste that which they see is relished by their elders. We have overwhelming evidence that this actually happens. We have evidence which proves not only that these children are taught to drink in this way, but it often happens that they buy drink for themselves in the public-house and consume it outside. At the present time the law forbids the publican to supply children with intoxicating liquors on the premises, but that provision is futile so long as you allow the children to buy drink on the premises and consume it off the premises. We have some terrible proofs of the prevalence of drink among young children. It is true that the number of arrests among children is not very great—I believe it reached forty in one year; but that is by no means the limit of drunkenness among young children. It must be remembered that these are only the arrests for disorder, and according to the evidence of many police officers the prevalence of drunkenness amongst young children is very great. This reform which we advocate is really at the bottom of all temperance reform. You can hardly carry any moderate temperance reform unless you carry out this proposal first. The Government are going to bring in a Bill to deal with the very important question of selling drink to intoxicated persons. The Government intend to increase the penalties for this offence against the publican, and they are going to post up the names of inebriates in the public-houses. That reform will be useless unless this Bill is passed. I say, penalise the publican as much as you like, and post up the names of the drunkards; but so long as you allow the drunkard's child to go and fetch him drink while he lies hopelessly and helplessly drunk at home, surely your efforts in this direction will be futile and ridiculous. This is what the evidence before the Commission has proved.

How does the Royal Commission propose to deal with this question? As all hon. Members know, there are two reports—one issued by the minority, which contains the views of the most advanced temperance reformers, and there is also the Majority Report. The Minority Report is entirely in favour of this Bill. But what does the Report of the majority say? It says: "If, as we are inclined from the evidence before us to believe, the weight of public opinion now supports the proposal, we are of opinion that serving children under the age of sixteen for consumption either 'on' or 'off' should be forbidden, and that the present penalties should also be imposed on those who send children knowing them to be under age." We have adopted this recommendation with one exception, and that is that we do not propose to penalise the sender. We are even more moderate than the moderate section of the members of the Commission. The majority tell us that we should not attempt to legislate beyond public opinion upon this matter, and I think that is a very wise precaution. But it is fair to say that there were four dissentients, though they were all immediately connected with the liquor trade. The main reason for the reservation of these gentlemen was that they did not think public opinion was advanced enough in favour of this Bill. They say that in the year 1886 a Bill was passed prohibiting the sale of drink to children on the premises, and at that time an attempt was made to include off the premises as well, but Parliament did not pass it, and what has happened since then? Why, everything has happened since. The Commission has happened, a Bill on the subject has been unanimously passed through the House, and two Home Secretaries have expressed themselves in favour of this principle. If anything is certain I think it is that the country is in favour of this Bill. Hon. Members are aware of the amount of letters and petitions which have been coming in, and these petitions have come not only from temperance associations, but from school boards—including the School Board of London—county councils, town councils, parish councils, and from many if not all of the borough councils of London; from boards of guardians, from benches of magistrates, and from every kind of public body. Meetings have been held in many parts of the country, attended by as many as 2,000 or 3,000 persons, where resolutions have been passed unanimously in favour of this Bill. I do not believe that in recent years there has been a Bill upon which the country has more clearly expressed its opinion.

I now turn to another point. The majority of the Commission recommend that the sender should also be penalised. The question is whether we should or should not include that recommendation in this Bill. I believe that recommendation was suggested by Mr. Charles Walker, who was one of the four gentlemen who entered these reservations. He says:—

> "The proposal to impose penalties upon those who send children, knowing them to be under age, would be nugatory, as the proof necessary to conviction would be practically impossible. How could young children be called as witnesses against their parents?"

That is the opinion of Mr. Walker, who is not friendly to the Bill, and I think great stress should be placed upon that opinion. I do not wish to express an opinion upon its justice or injustice, but it is one which is well worthy the consideration of the Committee. A proposal has been placed on the Notice Paper by the hon. Member for West Bradford not to penalise the sender, but the parent or guardian, of the child. I would like to show that would work out unjustly. Take the case of a man who is perfectly respectable, and let us suppose that he is a teetotaller. Suppose he has a child, and that child is bribed by a drunkard to go and fetch him drink. Who is to be punished? Not the sender, but the innocent father, who may regard it as an outrage that his child was sent at all, would be penalised. I do not think that the Bill, if passed in that form, would be practical. I believe that there is no one who has more the welfare of the masses at heart than the hon. Member opposite, and I am perfectly certain that he can have no desire whatever to do anything that would wreck so useful a Bill as this.

Those of us who promote this Bill do not throw it at the House as a cast-iron Bill. Since introducing this measure many points have been brought before me by hon. Gentlemen opposite and other gentlemen who come to the lobby representing publicans and others, and I think that many of the suggestions made would greatly improve the Bill. This is not a Bill to penalise the publican, and it is not a Bill to prevent the legitimate sale of drink. It is a Bill to save the children from contamination so far as is practicable, and so long as that one purpose is effected I do not care what Amendments are inserted. What I do say is, that the Committee is the place to discuss those. I do not know what arguments are going to be used against this Bill. I have heard only two. I have heard it said that this measure will be very inconvenient to working men. Well, I think working men can speak for themselves, and they are largely in favour of this Bill. I think, as a rule, that the British publican is quite as enterprising as any other tradesman. He possesses a good and lucrative trade, and if this Bill is passed into law I think he will find some means of supplying the British workman with his dinner beer. There is only one other objection raised, and it is this. We are told that this Bill will be mischievous, because if we prohibit young children being sent to the public-house, men will have to send their daughters of eighteen years. I welcome that argument, because it admits up to the hilt the principle on which this Bill is based. Those who use this argument admit that the public-house is so contaminating a place that no respectable man would send his daughter there. If hon. Gentlemen hold that view, what is their logical course? Their only logical course is to come and ask us to extend the age limit in this Bill, so as to include persons at the age of eighteen. I will not stand further in the way of the discussion. We private Members have done everything in our power upon this question, and we have joined hands across the floor of this House. We have given to this Bill every advantage that a private Member or the most powerful combination of private Members can give to a private Bill. But our rights are circumscribed, and unless the Government give this measure their countenance it will, no doubt, be impossible to pass it. I call upon the Government, therefore, to help us to pass a Bill which is recommended by their own Commission, which is desired by the House of Commons and the country, and which will confer on the masses of the people not only moral but material benefits.

*SIR WILLIAM HOULDSWORTH (Manchester, N.W.): My hon. friend on the opposite side of the House has stated the case for the Bill so forcibly and fairly that I should not have thought it necessary to intervene at this stage if it had not been for one reason, and that is, that I desire to emphasise what he has alluded to—that this is in no sense whatever a party measure. It is a Bill which is supported as heartily on this side of the House as on the other side, and although some of my hon. friends have some doubts and some criticisms to make on the details of the Bill, I trust the House will remember that we are at present engaged upon the Second Reading, and we are debating the principle of the measure, which is, that the time has come when there should be an Amendment of the laws regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors to children.

This is not a new matter, as hon. Members are aware. We have Acts on the Statute-book which protect the children to a certain extent, and certainly it cannot be said that this is reckless or rash legislation, because we have taken very nearly the whole century to reach the point at which we have now only just arrived. It may be interesting to know that the first Act passed in reference to this question was a Metropolitan Act solely. It was passed in the year 1839, and related only to the serving of spirits. It was not until 1872 that that was made a general Act applying to the whole country, but it only related to spirits and to consumption on the premises. It was not until the year 1886 that the sale of intoxicating liquors was prohibited to any person under thirteen years of age for consumption on the premises. The hon. Gentleman has already referred to a state of things which is most deplorable. It is very often assumed that there are Acts which prevent the serving and supplying of intoxicating liquors to children of a certain age. That is not the case. At the present moment the law permits any child of any age to be served and supplied with liquor if only the child does not consume it on the premises. So that it is a fact that at the present time there is no protection whatever against the serving of children of any age, even though they be only six, seven, or eight years of age, and these children are perfectly free to consume intoxicating liquor so long as they do not consume it on the premises. It appears to me that the Commission thought there was a justification for an alteration in the law consonant with common-sense, and certainly with public opinion. This is a dangerous trade, and we have repeatedly in Parliament, especially of late years, been legislating for the protection of women and children, and even of men, from dangerous trades. Therefore, I say that this Bill is in perfect harmony with legislation that has been passed over and over again.

I know that the great difficulty we have to contend against in urging this Bill is the question of messengers, and at first sight it does seem a hardship for a respectable man, who wishes to have his dinner or supper beer, that he should not be able to send his child to the public-house for it. I would like to say that my experience in the north of England leads me to believe that there are not a great many artisans who want their dinner or supper beer fetched. Their habit is generally to take their meals without any intoxicating liquor, and if they do indulge in it, it is taken quite separate from their meals. Therefore, I do not think that the inconvenience to the ordinary artisan throughout the country would be very great. The real fact is that the great majority of these messengers are practically distributors of liquor on behalf of the publican, and they are sent by good-for-nothing men and women who are very often too drunk to go to the public-house themselves, and so these children of tender age are utilised. The publicans ought to be ashamed of employing the young children of this country as their distributors, and if they want to distribute their liquor they ought to employ distributors of their own. If hon. Members who feel a difficulty about this messenger question were to examine the evidence given before the Commission, they would come to the conclusion that, whatever may be said in its favour, there was an overwhelming case in favour of putting it down, owing to the serious evils which resulted from this messenger system. I admit that it is impossible to pass legislation of this kind without causing inconvenience to somebody. What they had to consider and take into account was the balance of advantages and whether there were sufficient advantages to justify legislation even though there were some inconvenience caused on the other hand. My hon. friend referred to two cases, and I will give two short extracts from the evidence on this point with regard to the consumption of liquor which was procured by the children for consumption by themselves. If it was proposed that in no case did they consume it themselves, it might be a stronger argument, but the evidence is overwhelming that not only do they do this but they actually commence to drink at a very early age, and thus get a taste for liquor, and you are creating through these messengers what becomes habitual drunkenness, because it is well known that if the taste is acquired strongly in early age it will be very difficult to stop the practice afterwards. One of the witnesses was Miss Johnson, visitor of the District Provident Society, and I should just like to read two or three questions and answers which occurred in her evidence. She was asked—

> *Q.* It is not for their own consumption?
>
> *A.* They are mostly acting as messengers, but they drink it on the way.
>
> *Q.* They do not drink it in the public-house?
>
> *A.* Sometimes they do.
>
> *Q.* Have you known any families in which evil has resulted from this drinking?
>
> *A.* Yes, where they have had boys and girls spending their coppers in drink, as soon as they earn them themselves they have got into the way of being, one might say, habitual drunkards at a very early age.
>
> *Q.* Have those cases occurred in families you have been personally acquainted with?
>
> *A.* Yes.

Sir William Houldsworth.

Lady Henry Somerset's evidence is very striking indeed. She gave a case in Manchester of a girl of thirteen being brought before the magistrate charged with being drunk. She was asked how she got drunk, and she replied—

> "I was cold, and as I had sixpence I went into a public-house and bought sixpennyworth of whisky and drank it on the doorstep."

There is no law at the present time which prevents young children from getting drink, not as messengers but absolutely for their own consumption. Lady Henry Somerset was asked—

> *Q.* At how early an age have you seen children coming out of public-houses?
>
> *A.* At five, six, seven, and eight, and at any time at which they could possibly hold a jug and walk."

I think this evidence will be accepted as authoritative, as far as it goes. We know that these witnesses are interested in the temperance question, not because they are faddists, but because they take a deep interest in the welfare of the children. Many people who are not temperance men, who have seen the good results produced by the work of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children also feel that some alteration of the law is required. The same kind of evidence is given by constables, police, and other authorities, and the petitions which have been presented on this subject show that public opinion is thoroughly aroused. I have tried to get the number of petitions which have been presented on this occasion, but, owing to the fact that they have been coming in in large quantities both yesterday and to-day, and probably will continue to do so for a few days longer, I am unable to get the number and make the analysis which I should like to make. I wish, however, to mention that last year there were 5,627 petitions presented in favour of this Bill, and of this number no less than 3,423 were from official authorities throughout the country. That shows that those who come in contact with the great mass of the people are in favour of this measure. Upon this occasion a petition has been presented by the City Council of Manchester, the School Board of Manchester, and the Board of Guardians, and I believe if we had the Return we should find that there is not a city in England, and scarcely a local board, which has not petitioned in favour of this measure. Under these circumstances, I think that it is without doubt that public opinion in favour of this measure is overwhelming.

I should like to mention another matter. In Liverpool this question is being solved, although, unfortunately, I do not think it is being done quite in accordance with the law. At any rate the Liverpool magistrates have taken a step which, whether legal or not, shows that there is no real opposition to a movement in this direction. The magistrates there have simply by a resolution ordered the chief constable to report to them all cases of public-houses where children are served under thirteen years of age. The effect of that resolution has been that not only has there been no outcry against this, but the publicans themselves have accepted the situation, and gone so far as to put notices in their windows to the effect that they will not serve children under thirteen. Therefore, I am entitled to believe that if a moderate measure extending the age were passed we should have not only the working classes supporting it, but also the best of the publicans. I cannot understand why any hon. Member on this or the other side of the House should hesitate for one moment in giving his support to the Second Reading of this Bill. My hon. friend opposite has referred to the Reports of the Commission, and therefore I do not think I need say anything more on that point, except that it will be understood that this recommendation is unanimous among all sections in England, Scotland, and Ireland. Scotland is at the present in advance of us, to some extent, although not so far in advance as the great mass of people of Scotland would like. The age there is fourteen. I submit to the House accordingly that the time has arrived when we ought to agree, at any rate, to send this Bill to the Committee upstairs. The question is now ripe for legislation, and if any Amendment is suggested which is not intended to wreck the Bill we shall be very glad indeed to accept it in order to make the Bill more workable. All we have to avoid is not to take a retrograde step. We have arrived at a certain position, and if the Bill is passed as it stands we shall have no difficulty whatever in carrying it into effect. I beg to second the motion for the Second Reading.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

MAJOR JAMESON (Clare, W.): I rise to move that this Bill be read a second time this day six months. I should like to say to the mover and seconder of the Bill that I will not give way to them or anyone else in my earnest desire to ensure the sobriety of those children who are dear to us all. I may add that I have no interest in any licensed house in England, Ireland, Scotland, or Wales. I will endeavour to show to the House that this Bill in the form in which it is presented to us will absolutely defeat the objects it is meant to bring about.

The Bill is based on false sentiment. It would absolutely fail in securing children of a certain age from being able to obtain intoxicating liquors, and it would more than ever tend to increase drinking in private houses and so-called clubs. In my opinion it fails signally, first of all, in making license holders responsible for selling strong drink to children, instead of making the parents or guardians of those children responsible for their conduct and responsible for guarding the interests and health of those children who depend upon them. Sentiment does not always take a fair view of these social questions, and, as the promoters of this Bill have endeavoured to show that they are following out the recommendation of the Royal Commission, I will endeavour to prove that they have not done so. In the second clause of this Bill it is stated that—

> "Every holder of a licence who sells or delivers, or allows any person to sell or deliver any description of intoxicating liquor to any person apparently under the age of sixteen years, for consumption either on or off the premises shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding forty shillings for the first offence and in the case of a second or any subsequent offence to a penalty not exceeding five pounds."

The Bill sets forth the penalties against the license holder, but what does the Report of the Royal Commission state?—

> "Under the existing law no boy or girl under fourteen may be served or supplied with any kind of intoxicating liquor for his own or her own consumption. But it is not unlawful to supply liquor to any child, however young, who obtains it as a messenger for an adult. As in the case of England, we recommend that no child under the age of sixteen should be served or supplied with liquor in any circumstances, and that the sender of a juvenile under that age, as a messenger to obtain liquor, should be liable to the same penalties as the licensee who supplied the liquor. It should not, however, be forgotten—"

and here is one of many great points—

> "that this might prove a serious interference with parental discretion and the convenience of working men. Legislation in this direction should only be undertaken after the fullest discussion with those best qualified to speak for them, otherwise strong reaction of opinion might follow. In Scotland it is an offence to supply children under fourteen for their own consumption, whether on or off the premises."

Now here you have a direct finding by the Royal Commission, that the parent or guardian or sender of a juvenile under the age of sixteen should be liable to the same penalties as the licensee who supplies the liquor, and it also adds that this might prove a serious interference with the convenience of the working man, and legislation in this direction should only be undertaken after the fullest discussion with the working classes themselves. I am sure of one thing, that there is not one single petition signed by artisans and working men only who have ever agreed to allow their liberties to be taken away by such a Bill as this. There is also a very curious omission—I presume it was a fault in drawing Clause 2 in this Bill. It prevents the license holder from selling any description of intoxicating liquor to any person apparently under the age of sixteen for consumption either on or off the premises, but in this penal clause it does not say that a messenger under that age may not be sent. I suppose the backers of this Bill are so much alive to the folly of it that in the penal clause it makes no such statement, and it is not until Clause 4 that any mention is made of a messenger, and that for Scotland only. In this penal clause (Clause 2) it altogether omits the recommendation of the Royal Commission to provide the only safeguard possible—namely, that similar penalties should also be imposed upon those who send the children knowing them to be under age.

In speaking of the Act of 1886 the Royal Commission stated—

> 'It should, however, be remembered that the above-named Act (49 and 50 Vict. c. 56) was passed after a considerable debate in 1886. In the original Bill, Parliament was then invited to prohibit the 'off' sale to children under thirteen years of age, but deliberately refused the words 'for consumption on the premises by any person under such age as aforesaid' being inserted. It, therefore, appears that as recently as 1886 Parliament considered the proposal to forbid the serving of child messengers a serious interference with the parental discretion and the convenience of working men. Legislation in this direction, therefore, should only be undertaken after the fullest discussion with those best qualified to speak for the class affected, otherwise a strong reaction of opinion might follow."

Now, even if there has been an increase in drunkenness amongst children, I say that if you interfere with the parental discretion and convenience of the working men you must put a similar penalty upon them as you do on the holders of licences. I defy any hon. Member to go down to hi constituency and obtain 90 per cent. of the working men to agree to this House placing such a restriction on their liberty.

MR. WILLIAM JOHNSTON (Belfast. S.): I will be very happy to do it at any time.

MAJOR JAMESON: I would like to point out to the House the practical effects which this Bill would have if passed into law. In the first place no boy under sixteen could be employed by any licensee. On this point the Commissioners say—

> "Such a veto upon their employment in the licensed trade would be a serious loss to the parents and guardians of children, for such apprentices and messengers receive generally higher wages than in other trades and occupations. And to the boys themselves it would seriously affect their prospects in life, and considerably extend their apprenticeship."

Now, it may be interesting to the House to know what the boys are, at present employed as messengers, who would be turned out of employment. In the first place it would abolish hotel page-boys. In public-houses and restaurants it would prevent boys (it may be the publicans' own children) from being employed as servants or messengers, or from handling or delivering refreshments to customers, and so invidiously restrict the age of boys being employed. At railway stations it would prevent boys from carrying refreshments to railway carriages. At golf course and similar places it would prevent boys from acting as messengers for golfers and obtaining luncheon and refreshment for them. I wish very much the First Lord of the Treasury were here; he is a great authority on the golf course, and I am sure the House would not like to prevent him having his whisky and soda after making one of those magnificent strokes of his in a match. Again, grocers and wine merchants, while they would be allowed to employ a boy for delivering groceries, could not employ him for delivering liquor, though corked and sealed, and this would prevent the apprenticeship and training of boys to a trade at a suitable age. It is not suggested that boys or girls should be prevented from acting as messengers in the drug or chemical trade, though spirits form an important item in the preparation of these goods. Wines and spirits sold by wine merchants and licensed grocers and delivered by messengers are in corked and sealed bottles or in barrels; and, apart from the serious inconvenience to the traders, no reason can be alleged for prohibiting shopboys from delivering sealed bottles any more than tinned goods. Such a statutory provision would handicap such merchants by depriving them of the service of youths who constitute a large proportion of their shop assistants and vanmen, and so give unlicensed traders an advantage. And yet while you exclude all these unfortunate boys from sixteen downwards and turn them out of their employment, a page-boy in a club, or in a bogus club, would not be prevented from serving, nor would it prevent these clubs from supplying the children of the members. The present law enables a working man who is a member of a *bona fide* club to have a share in the distribution of liquor sold therefrom. What is to prevent him from giving an order to the steward or caretaker, or manager, say for half a gallon of beer, which would be fetched by his children, even of very tender age, at some time during the day?

Another serious evil would arise if children are not allowed to be used as messengers by hard-working parents. The mothers will not themselves go to the public-house; several of them will undoubtedly club together, buy these gallon jars of beer, and in this way drunkenness amongst females, which is at present the bane of the country, will be increased to a most alarming extent, so that the remedy would in this case be far worse than any of the evils alleged to be caused by the serving to children under the present system.

And now as regards the existing law. In the greater majority of licensed houses, both in England and Ireland, there is a bottle and jug department where no drinking goes on, and where the children cannot mix with those who are drinking at the bar. There is nothing in this Bill about licensed grocers. There is nothing to prevent, and rightly so, their supplying intoxicants in quart bottles to children, while your licensed victualler is absolutely excluded from doing so. You are in reality making your license holder usurp the place of a parent or guardian, and making him responsible, and not even dividing the responsibility with the parent and the guardian in question. I presume the introducers of this Bill dare not ask the working men and artisans who are their constituents to deliberately penalise themselves, and so, in an underhand way, by placing the penalty on the license holder they have placed a restriction which their constituents would not endure on the working man and on the artisan. I defy the honourable Members who support this Bill to show me a single petition wholly signed by artisans and working men in favour of this restriction of their liberties.

And now let us turn to how penalties have been placed on parents as regards the employment of their children in shops, factories, and workshops, and also on those whose children sell newspapers. The following are a few examples:—

"(I) 41 Vic., cap. 16, secs. 83–84 (the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878) makes it an offence for the parent of a young person under age to allow, contrary to the Act, the youth to be employed in a factory or workshop; and it is also an offence if the occupier of a factory or workshop employs such young person; but it is a good defence to both the parent and the occupier if they prove that the offence was committed without their knowledge, consent, or connivance. Section 87 provides that the occupier, on being charged with that offence, may charge the actual offender, and have him taken before the Court. The same section empowers the Inspector to proceed against the person whom he believes to be the actual offender. (II.) Public performances.—42 and 43 Vic., cap. 34, sec. 3, makes it an offence for any person to cause any child under 14 to to take part in any public performance. It is also an offence for the parent or guardian of such child to aid or abet the person causing such child to perform. (III.) Singing, selling, performing, begging.—55 and 56 Vic., cap. 41, sec. 2 makes it offence for (a) any person causing or procuring, and (b) any person having the custody or care of the child, allowing the child — being a boy under 14 or a girl under 16—to be in any public place or premises for begging, under the pretence of singing or offering anything for sale, etc. It is also an offence for a person to cause or procure, or, having the custody or care of the child, to allow it (under aforesaid age) to be on any licensed premises for the sale of liquor for the purpose of performing for profit, or offering anything for sale between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. It is, further, an offence to cause or procure a child under the age of 16, or on one having the custody or care of it, to allow the child to be in any place for being trained as an acrobat, contortionist, or performer, or in any exhibition which in its nature is dangerous. (IV.) Selling Newspapers.—55 and 56 Vic., cap. 55, sec. 276 prohibits any child under 12 from selling newspapers who has not obtained a license and a badge from the magistrates. Nor can such child sell after nine o'clock at night. The parents or guardians of the child who knowingly suffer such child to vend newspapers are liable to a penalty. And any person supplying such child with newspapers, knowing it to be under 12, that has no licence, is liable to a penalty. (V.) Shop hours.—58 Vic., cap. 5, sec. 10. (The Shop Hours Acts, 1895) provides that the young persons under that Act (*i.e.*, under the age of 18) does not include such young persons who are members of the family dwelling on the premises or any house attached. That provision should be applied to this Bill, so as to exclude from it children who are messengers of the family of the licensee."

In Ireland in our trade, which is well conducted, in the greater part of the shops in which liquor is dispensed, groceries are also sold, and surely it is a monstrous law that would prevent a boy or girl of fifteen years of age buying wines or spirits for their parents at the same time that they buy tea and bread. I do not believe that you can show a single instance where young persons under the age of sixteen, acting as messengers, have been found under the influence of drink while they were being used as messengers by their parents. My hon. friend says that they are in Scotland ahead of England and Ireland. They are ahead of us in drunkenness, for I find that the liquor bill per head in Scotland is £4 10s., and only £2 14s. in Ireland; and yet the Licensing (Scotch) Act of 1897 made the age fourteen, whereas in Ireland and in England the age is thirteen, so up to the present it has had no effect in Scotland on sobriety. That shows how useless these restrictions are, and how every restriction increases drunkenness in every possible way. I cannot believe that the Government will lend themselves to piecemeal legislation, or that any Government worthy of the name will allow a few private Members to decide what are the results of the Royal Commission, and to snatch the passing of an Act, which is contrary to the finding even of that Commission, by a Bill founded upon false sentiment and upon sham.

Let the Government consider for a moment the enormous number of extra police they would require to what they have at present in order to really carry out this law. You would want pretty nearly one policeman to every public-house, in fact, the question of the number of police reminds me rather of a riddle which I will give to the House, as it explains what would happen under this Licensing Bill. It is this. If you took up one of the square paving stones opposite to the Members' entrance of the House of Commons from Westminster Square and sowed it with barley, what would come up? The answer is, A policeman; and that is precisely what would have to come up opposite the door of every public-house in the United Kingdom. I will ask this House and Government not to consent to pass this Bill, which cannot be fully, freely, and fairly discussed on a Wednesday afternoon. It is a question entirely for the Government when they should bring in a Licensing Bill, and say what restrictions should be placed upon the trade and upon the working classes of this country. They are responsible for restrictions being passed on the working classes. They are responsible that no undue restriction should be placed on the habits and customs of our people; and it would be most unfair to legislate in this matter, without the fullest inquiry, and without considering the wishes of the people, and the facts and circumstances of the case, by allowing a meddlesome and bungling Bill like this that is before us to-day to be passed into law.

I see on the back of this Bill several Members whose names always appear on such measures. Of course the Member for South Belfast, and all those temperance Members who are associated with him are ever ready to make remarks hurtful and galling to those who do not entirely agree with them on this subject of temperance and of religion. The hon. Gentleman will not allow any good to be in the thoughts of those who differ with him. My friends and colleagues who sit with me on these benches have good reason to know that, and the slights that he always places on their religion; and those connected with the trade have similar reasons for disliking any measure of the kind being placed upon us at his bidding. I entreat the House not to be carried away by this sham and false sentiment, not to allow piecemeal legislation of this sort to be imposed upon us. I adhere to the fact that the licensed trade, as a whole, is conducted in an honest and honourable manner. I myself have no interest in any licensed house in the three kingdoms, and, although some of those whose names are on the Bill may not allow it, I have as much interest in the future and the welfare of the children of this country as they or anybody else; but I have no hesitation in saying that this Bill will be of no use to them. See that the children are properly housed, fed, and educated, do not make a mystery of drink and even of the terrible results to them of excess, and, believe me, without this arbitrary interference of the liberty of the subject, our youths will grow up as they ought—sober, honest, and industrious—without laws being made for them by faddists and by people of extreme notions.

*MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): I beg to second the motion of my hon. friend for the rejection of this Bill. I think a sufficient case has not been made out for the Bill by the hon. Members who have moved and seconded the Second Reading. They ask us to accept the Bill after a very short explanation as to its nature. On the face of it, the Bill appears to be a very small affair, but when closely examined it is found to be very wide-reaching in its consequences. The Bill is headed "Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children Bill." I, for one, am as strong as any man for preventing the sale of intoxicating liquors to children, but I say that the machinery provided in this Bill will not accomplish this object. As my hon. friend has pointed out, this Bill conflicts to a large extent with the report of the Peel Commission, which did not propose that the penalties should be confined to the publican, but which said that the parent or guardian responsible for having sent the child for drink should be punished as well as the publican. Under the licensing law at present, in questions relating to the *bona fide* traveller or to persons found on premises after hours, the person who gets the drink is just as liable to punishment as the person who supplies the drink. If a child is found to go to a public-house it is easy to trace the parent or guardian who sent it, and to punish that parent or guardian. It appears to me that one of the objects of the Bill is to treat the licensed trader as if he were a public outcast, as if he were some person outside the law, who is to get no consideration or mercy, and, no matter what happens, is always supposed to be a sinner. I do not think that is a fair or prudent thing to do. If children have been led into drinking habits or into vice by being sent into public-houses there are other remedies. Why not send them to industrial or reformatory schools? They do it in Ireland, where the children then get a proper chance of starting in life. If a parent allows his child to get into habits of drink, it should be taken from him and sent to an industrial school, and the parent made to contribute to the support of the child. We have been told that the Peel Commission reported in favour of the proposals of this Bill, but because a Royal Commission has reported in favour of the principle of a Bill, it does not follow that this House should accept it without any further discussion. I ask hon. Gentlemen opposite who are in favour of this Bill—some of them from Ireland—do they treat every Commission with the same respect as the Peel Commission? Do they treat the Financial Relations Commission with the same respect as they wish to treat certain portions of the Report of the Peel Commission? I say they do not, and it is absurd for them to ask us to treat the Peel Commission in a different manner from what they treat the Financial Relations Commission.

I take the special objection to the Bill that it is extended to Ireland. If there is any necessity for it in England or Scotland, let it be confined to these countries, and I would not object. The English and Scotch people should be left to legislate on social questions of this kind for themselves; but the legislation should not be made applicable to Ireland unless there is a strong case made out for it in Ireland. The hon. Member for South Belfast, who seems to claim a monopoly of all the Christian virtues, taunts us as if we were committing the unforgivable sin because we object to this Bill being adopted for Ireland. I object to the Bill being extended to Ireland on the ground that there is not a sufficient demand from the people of Ireland for it, and that no sufficient case has been made out for it. In my capacity as a pressman I have attended courts covering nearly a fourth of the counties of Ireland, and I have never seen a case coming up in any court of Summary Jurisdiction, or any other court, which in any way required legislation such as is brought forward by this Bill. In any case where a child has been led into depravity it is dealt with under the Industrial Schools Act or the Reformatories Act. What will be the effect of penal and coercive legislation of this kind. It will lead to hypocrisy on the part of the people affected, and to corruption on the part of the police into whose hands the administration of the Act will be placed. I know that Acts of this kind are applied in Ireland according to the politics and religion of certain people. I believe you might search through six or seven counties in Ireland, and you would not get in twelve months six cases to which this Bill would apply. Why, then, for the sake of six cases in a twelvemonth should you hamper hundreds of respectable people? Why should we pass a law which might be used as an engine of tyranny and oppression against Nationalists? Why are Nationalist publicans to be worried by the police who have a spite against them? I know something of how the licensing laws are administered in Ireland. I know that certain publicans can break these laws as they like. They understand how by indirect methods to affect the people who are charged with the administration of the law. The result is that one class of men can break the law and another class of men who do not come up to the police requirements are hampered in their work. I maintain that if this Bill is applied to Ireland it will enable the Royal Irish Constabulary to worry and harass publicans who are Nationalists, and in some districts publicans who are Catholics. No justification has been offered for introducing this Bill or for making it apply to Ireland.

Then, I contend that the heading of the Bill, "Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children," is an attempt to intimidate this House. That is an old trick. I remember some sessions ago the "Verminous Persons Bill." Several members objected to it because of its repulsive title, and successfully blocked it. The title in this case is meant to frighten opposition away, and that if you object to its machinery or its details you can be taunted, "Oh, you are for making little children drunkards!" I think that if this Bill were carried it would have a very serious effect on the rural districts of Ireland. There is not sufficient population there to enable a man to run a public-house, as in England, and accordingly the publican combines many other avocations. He sometimes sells drapery, and often groceries. In the summer time, in the harvest time of the year, when people are engaged in their work in the fields, and it is of vital importance to the farmers to watch for every hour of sunshine, and to be on the land in order that they may harvest their crops, they cannot go themselves away from their work, and they have to send into the small towns for their supplies of provisions and groceries, and so forth, and they have to send their children. If this Bill is passed and applied to Ireland the effect will be that a farmer who is unable to leave his land will not be able to send his child, as he does at present, for his provisions and groceries if the man with whom he deals has a licensed house. That would be a most intolerable state of things; because a man has a licence to sell drink, although the greater part of his business may be the sale of provisions and groceries, a child under sixteen cannot be served, and as a consequence a farmer cannot send his child to fetch his supplies.

MR. JORDAN (Fermanagh, S.) dissented.

*MR. TULLY: My hon. friend suggests that the case I have endeavoured to illustrate would not occur. I am afraid he has not read the Bill, and gone into all the details; if he had he would have seen that the case I illustrate is just the case that would be likely to occur, and the police in Ireland, if they had a grudge against a man holding a licence, because he happened to be a member of the United Irish League, or because he was a supporter of it, would have another opportunity given them to wrong him. We know how they apply every technicality of the law, and twist them in order to persecute, injure, and often ruin men against whom they have a grudge. If this Bill passes and is applied to Ireland in its present form, we shall put a new weapon into the hands of the constabulary to persecute the people. By Clause 1 it is an offence for children to be seen near a public-house.

MR. JORDAN: No, no.

*MR. TULLY: Hon. Gentlemen on this side of the House seem to me to be as intolerant as hon. Gentlemen opposite I object to this Bill because, it is in my opinion, an interference with the personal liberty of the people. [Loud laughter.] Hon. Gentlemen who scoff at my proposition have not done me the honour to listen fully to the arguments I have tried to adduce in support of it. I was arguing that a farmer could not send his child to the village.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! I must warn the hon. Member against tedious repetition of his arguments.

*MR. TULLY: One of the effects of this Bill will be that a publican will not be able to employ about his house a child under sixteen years of age. He may not employ him as a messenger lest he should deliver drink. There never was such a dearth of servants in Ireland as at the present time, and if you make it penal for a man who has a public-house, and who combines with that other trades, to employ a boy of under sixteen years of age——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! There is nothing in the Bill about a publican not employing a boy.

*MR. TULLY: Very well, Mr. Speaker, I will not further occupy the time of the House except to say I support the motion of my hon. friend below me who has moved the rejection of the Bill. The Bill, in my opinion, is brought forward by the well paid officials of the temperance leagues from which it emanates. The public opinion of which we have heard is not true public opinion but a machine made opinion. The Bill, in my opinion, is a direct interference with the rights of the people, and so far as Ireland is concerned it is not necessary, and I shall vote against the Second Reading.

Amendment proposed, to leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day six months."—(*Major Jameson.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

*MR. REGINALD LUCAS (Portsmouth): This measure, I imagine, is one which at first sight everybody would be disposed to support; nobody would deliberately oppose a measure aiming at the suppression of intemperance; especially one which deals as this does with the case of children, and therefore I feel a little unwilling to appear as a critic of a measure having so much good in it. I do not associate myself with the sweeping condemnations which have fallen from hon. Members on the other side of the House, but it seems to me that in this measure that which is practical is overshadowed by that which is sentimental. The Bill goes too far. It is founded on two fallacies: one, that all children are presumptive or at all events potential drunkards, and the other that all public-houses are dens of vice. First of all I may say that all working men—the class for the protection of whom this Bill is brought forward—are entitled to have and will have their beer to drink with their dinner. With all due deference to the hon. Baronet the Member for North-West Manchester, I say it is the universal practice of the working men of this country to drink beer with their dinner, and my point is this, that there is not essentially any more harm in a child going to fetch the parents' beer than going to fetch the parents' food——

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): Would you send your own child? That is the test.

*MR. REGINALD LUCAS: Hon. Members who have not forgotten their Dickens will remember—particularly in the Christmas Carol—the reference made to the familiar practice of people sending to the bakehouse to have their dinners cooked; how through bye-streets and lanes and numerous turnings the people came carrying their dinners to the bakers' shops, and my point is that it is not worse to fetch the beer than the dinner with which it is to be drunk. I know that there is one objection, but I should say that the parents in these classes were the first to take the greatest care to protect their children. In the second place I am at a loss to know where there is anything dreadful in a child taking malt liquor. I have always understood that stout is a perfectly wholesome drink, and I see no harm in the children having their share of what is admittedly a wholesome article. We all know that in the schools where we were educated we were allowed to drink beer before we reached the age of sixteen, and I am not aware that any of us ever suffered in consequence.

Another solution of this difficulty is this. I am told it is the practice of many publicans to send round to their customers at dinner time. That may or may not be so, but I do not see why operatives should be put to the inconvenience of waiting the punctuality of the messenger, and if their children did not go to fetch their beer the parents must go themselves, I do not see why they should be interfered with and interrupted in their duties by having to go round and fetch their own beer. We are told, and told repeatedly, that one of the greatest evils was the increase of intemperance among women, and it seems to me that if the mother of the family has continually to go to the public-house there is a great danger of staying there to gossip and taking drink. I think it is much better and safer for the child to go than the mother.

As to the question of age, I imagine that is a matter to be more properly dealt with in Committee, but for my part I should say that a girl of fifteen going into a public-house is much less likely to come to harm than a young woman of nineteen or twenty. Of course I know that a child going into a public-house may run the risk of hearing conversation detrimental to her moral well-being, but of this I am persuaded, that one of the great characteristics of the class of people of whom we are speaking is their tenderness towards children, and I am sure that people finding children coming into a public-house to get their parents' dinner beer would refrain from saying or doing anything that could bring any harm upon them. The only other observation I would make is this, that if young people are forbidden to go into public-houses the public-houses will take upon themselves a sort of charm which they would not otherwise possess. Coming to the question of the habitual soaker, this Bill, in my opinion, has nothing but good in it. I will refrain from quoting individual cases which have come under my notice. I may say that a friend of mine, a clergyman, for whom I have a great regard, told me that he followed a child into three public-houses, followed that child home, and found three women in a disgusting state of intoxication. That is a state of things which requires an immediate and certain remedy, and it is well worth our while to try and do something to remedy it, but I do not know that it is necessary in dealing with that to go so far or draft such a drastic measure as this which is under discussion. One thing which I do advocate is that the parents should be allowed to send for their dinner and supper beer. Those are the points which I desire to bring before the House, and on which I am bound to say I think we can allow some license. There is one part of the Bill which seems to me to be unpracticable, and that is the liability so far as the publican is concerned. I do not see how we are going to safeguard ourselves in a matter of this kind by the word "apparent," as it is obviously impossible for publicans in the busy time of the day to make the necessary inquiries and investigations; it would be extremely difficult for him to see if he was dealing with a person of fifteen or seventeen. Mr. Childers, in 1886, contended that children might be allowed to do certain things without any fear of corruption, and going into a public-house would not necessarily mean going into a den of wickedness, and in my opinion we should do more good by dealing reasonably with the proposals before the House than by attempting to pass an heroic measure.

*MR. TOMKINSON (Cheshire, Crewe): I desire to trespass on the indulgence of the House for the first time, and for a short time only, in order to give the results of my experience with regard to the action first taken by the licensing authority of the city of Liverpool, which has already been alluded to by my hon. friend the Member for North-West Manchester and, following immediately upon that example, by the Standing Joint Committee of the county of Chester, of which I am a member. They issued an instruction to the licence holders of the county not to serve children under fourteen years of age with intoxicating drink. In the county the proposal was met with the usual objections, many of which we have heard in this House to-day—the difficulties as to the age of the children, the hardship upon the parents, and the injustice to the licence holders were all freely aired and discussed. The instruction has been in force for some years, and at every petty sessional annual meeting the superintendent of the division reports to the magistrates the result of the working of that instruction and the number of cases in which the licence holders have disregarded it. Speaking from my own experience as chairman of one division, I may say that the cases have been almost nil. The licence holders have one and all freely and fully accepted the situation. They have behaved extremely well, and I am glad to say that the gloomy predictions of the results which would ensue have been proved to be nugatory, nothing but the best results having followed. I maintain that in this one piece of practical experience we have an argument in favour of the present Bill which is better than any amount of theoretical difficulties or special pleading in the opposite direction. In supporting this Bill I will only say that we ask that the action which the Liverpool magistrates and the authority of the county of Chester have taken ought to be made compulsory, and that the age should be raised from fourteen to sixteen. I firmly believe that if this Bill passes into law it will be of the greatest benefit not only to the children, but to the country generally and its future.

I think the House will unanimously congratulate itself upon the hands into which, by the chances of the Ballot, the moving of the second reading of this Bill has fallen. We have all listened with the greatest interest and delight to the admirable speech of the hon. Member. I have in regard to that speech only one regret, and that is, that on account, I understand, of important duties in another place it was absolutely impossible for the Home Secretary to be in his place to hear it. I believe, however, that we have, on his part, something more than a mere benevolent neutrality, and I trust that with his kindly help this Bill may be passed into law in the present session.

MR. FLOWER (Bradford, W.): I wish to add to the tribute paid to the hon. Gentleman who introduced this Bill. He did so in a speech, if I may say so, the earnestness and eloquence of which charmed the House, and most rightly evoked the sympathy of all who heard it. The speech had also, I think, another valuable quality. It was couched in moderate language, and whilst in the observations I have to offer to the House I cannot attempt to rival the eloquence of the hon. Gentleman, I shall at least endeavour to follow the precedent of moderation he set in the matter. There is not in any quarter of the House, so far as I am aware, any reluctance to recognise, or any fear to grapple with, the gigantic evil of intemperance. We all recognise that among the many great topics which have woven together into a tangled skein and constitute the programme of social reform there is none more important, none more intricate, and none more difficult to deal with than this problem of drink. The hon. Gentleman who moved the Bill spoke of the evil effects which are involved in the sale of drink under present conditions, and he spoke of those effects as tending to increase the amount of juvenile intoxication. No figures one can quote on the question of juvenile intoxication can be held to be satisfactory, because it is a terrible thing, take it even at its smallest figure; but there has been presented to this House from time to time a statement of the extent to which juvenile intoxication prevails in England and Wales. I endeavoured, as some Members may remember, by a question which I put yesterday to elicit the corresponding figures for Scotland and Ireland. The figures for the whole of England and Wales in the year 1893 were 50; in 1894, 41; in 1895, 24; in 1896, 31; in 1897, 26; in 1898, 44; and in 1899, the last year for which Returns have been compiled, I am glad to say the number has fallen to 17. With regard to Ireland we were told yesterday by the Chief Secretary that the figures last year were only 8. Whilst we may admit that even these figures are extremely unpleasant, yet the evil, so far as juvenile intoxication is concerned, is not one so gigantic as to call for the extreme and drastic measure now before the House.

The Bill is, as the hon. Gentleman who introduced it observed, no stranger to the House. I dare say he was present, as I was myself, on that memorable evening last year when, by the almost unanimous consent of the House, the Bill was read a second time.* It will be remembered that on that occasion one or two suggestions were made. I am sorry that the promoters of this Bill did not avail themselves in the interval which has elapsed since last June to carry out some of those suggestions and incorporate them in their Bill, for had they done so I think their Bill would have met with a very favourable reception on the whole, and I do not anticipate that there would have been any fear or risk but that the main portion would have become law. But they have not done so. The Bill as it stands to-day before us is substantially and practically the same Bill as that which was introduced last March, and which passed the Second Reading in June. Therefore, I think it is very desirable to press upon the promoters of the Bill once again some suggestions and alterations for its improvement. I do so in no hostile spirit to the principle of the measure. No one who has taken, as I have done for some years, an interest in the welfare of the children of London can fail to wish to do all that is practicable to remove from them every sort of temptation and every risk of contamination, as far as it is possible to do so.

The hon. Gentleman, in introducing the Bill, made one statement which I was very glad to hear. He said he did not wish to penalise the publican, and by that statement I think he meant that he wanted the Bill to work fairly towards the publican who would honestly try to carry out the law if this change should be placed on the Statute-book. But if that is so—and I do not doubt that the statement of the hon. Gentleman is correct—why have not the promoters of this Bill taken the precaution which was taken in the Bill of 1886? In the discussion of the Bill it was pointed out that it was exceedingly difficult for a publican, the holder of a licence, to arrive at anything like an accurate estimate of the age of a person applying to him to be supplied with liquor, and we know that it is very difficult. We read every day in the newspapers of boys under age who enlist in the Army; and if a recruiting sergeant, with all the leisure and opportunity necessary for arriving at a sound conclusion, so frequently makes a mistake, is it to be a matter of wonder if a publican who is serving liquor should find a difficulty in arriving at an accurate estimate of the age of the person applying to him? That was brought before the House very strongly, and it was pressed from both sides in the debate on the Bill in 1886, and as a result the Attorney General of that day, the late Lord Russell of Killowen, introduced the words, "knowingly serves." It was a very valuable safeguard to prevent harsh and inequitable use being made of the law, and it was a safeguard which the Royal Commission in dealing with the Bill expressly laid down. In the Report of the majority they expressly use the word "knowingly"; and the minority in their Report, I believe, also use that word. I sincerely hope that the hon. Gentleman, who tells us he does not wish to penalise the publican, will take good care at some later stage of the Bill to see that the word "knowingly" is inserted. I should have hoped for that with stronger confidence had it not been for the speech of the hon. Baronet the Member for North-West Manchester. He said this Bill was not a piece of hasty legislation. Well, I quite agree with him that it is not hasty in the sense that it has been here before, but, like the Bourbons, the promoters seem to have forgotten nothing and learned nothing.

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* For the debate on this occasion see *The Parliamentary Debates* [Fourth Series], Vol. lxxx., page 517.

There are many points in connection with this Bill which will call for closer examination at the hands of this House when the Bill passes the Second Reading. There is, in the first place, the question of the extent to which this evil can be really remedied by legislation. When the Bill had passed the Second Reading last year, I went down to the East End of London, to a district which I was representing on the London School Board, in order to see for myself the working of this child messenger business. I went down to a very poor part of London called Bow Common Lane, and I asked a publican there to give me leave to stand near the bar during the dinner hour in order to observe what took place. Well, nothing very dreadful happened. There was a separate department called the "Jug and Bottle Entrance," and from ten minutes past twelve to, roughly speaking, half-past twelve, I suppose, some fifty or sixty people entered that bar and were served with beer. One person took the twopences and pitched them into the till and another person served the beer. People of all ages came. I recognised some of the brightest and most promising boys in the school of which I was in charge. They came in and paid twopence and went out again. Boys and girls of all ages—of school age, at all events—a few women, and still fewer men came in. There was nothing to contaminate a child in doing that, and I cannot but think that the promoters of this Bill would have done wisely to have, at all events, introduced some scheme for limiting the hours during which their measure was to apply, because, after all, what the House of Commons wants to do, and what I think the country expects us to do, is that we should save the children as far as possible from contamination, while inflicting a minimum of inconvenience on the publican, and dealing justly and equitably with all the parties concerned. I do not think it will be contended that the sale of beer over the counter from twelve to two o'clock in a compartment specially reserved and set apart for such sales is an operation that tends to contaminate children. It has been stated also that children are in the habit of sipping the beer while conveying it to their homes. I am inclined to doubt that statement. I have made some inquiry and obtained some testimony on the point. I should have thought myself that the average British working man coming home to his dinner and sending his boy to fetch a pint of ale and having to pour out that ale would see if there was an insufficient quantity, and if there was he would apply such a rough and ready method of dealing with the boy as would prevent the repetition of the offence. I very much doubt whether the offence referred to by the hon. Member for West Clare is one which could be indulged in to a large extent by the juvenile class without personal consequences to themselves.

I think the promoters of the Bill would have done well to consider the convenience of that section of parents who do send their children to the public-house for dinner beer. We are legislating for a class to which we do not belong, and is there not a risk that in this legislation, however good and sympathetic and kind, we may be acting on imperfect and inaccurate information? In the next place I think the promoters of this Bill should have considered this question of the hours. The hon. baronet the Member for North-West Manchester spoke in terms of reprobation and indignation of the action of those drunken parents who send their children to fetch drink from the public-house in order to minister to their own vice. The hon. Baronet would, I am sure, be the last man to say that the majority of parents who send their children into licensed premises to obtain liquor are drunken or dissolute. They are ordinary, everyday, average people. I would venture to say that in the average the person who sends his child to the public-house to fetch liquor is just as fond of that child, and just as eager for the welfare of that child, as any one of us sitting on these benches. Humanity is neither wholly good nor wholly bad. You must take it in the average. We cannot safely deal with abnormal cases by a Bill of this kind. This a Bill for dealing with the normal parent, and it is the normal case we have to consider. A terrible catalogue recorded in a newspaper—I think it was the *Daily News*—has been circulated amongst Members of Parliament, and those cases are terrible enough. If it be possible by legislation to deal with those cases, in God's name let us do it, but this Bill will not help those cases. If the House passes the Second Reading of this Bill—and I am inclined to hope that it will—is it prepared to say that, subject to a certain age, it is unwise to send young people to the public-houses? That is the principle. It is a broad principle, and it is intended to be applicable not merely to the abnormal circumstance of the intemperate and vicious home, but applicable to the average everyday life of the working classes. That being so, let us unite to make this Bill effective. Let us remove from it those sources of, I think, needless inconvenience to the community, and see how far it is possible to make the Bill useful and practical as an everyday working measure in social life.

I have touched on the question of hours. Let me touch next on what seems to me of almost equal importance, and that is the circumstances and the conditions under which drink is retailed. Many speeches which have been made not only here but in the country on this question seem to lump in one category all classes of licensed premises. They select the flaring gin-palace in our great city, with its sources of temptation, and they speak of other places as if they were open to the same criticism and the same charges to which, I fear, some of the flaring haunts of evil are open. But we know it is not so. We know that there are many quiet and respectable houses, and that the great majority of the license holders use their licenses wisely and well. Remember that they hold their licences on very frail tenure indeed, endeavouring to conduct their business in such a way as to merit the respect of the community. There is a great danger, I think, when we come to legislate on these matters, of looking upon the flaring gin palace and forgetting the other places of popular resort and refreshment which hold licenses under similar conditions, and which would be affected alike by the operation of the Bill. I fully agree that there can be nothing more unhappy to witness than to see a little child pushing through a crowd of people round a bar late at night to obtain liquor for his parents or those who have sent him. I should be inclined to say that we can do nothing better than to limit the sale of liquor to children strictly and solely to those premises which are provided with a separate exit and entrance for the sale of such liquor. That is a definite and clear proposition. If a licence holder was willing to provide such accommodation I would be inclined to allow him to supply liquor.

The Report of the Royal Commission touches upon another matter which I think goes to the root of this evil. I am referring to the Report of the majority which is to be found on page 19. The Report states that similar penalties to those imposed on the publicans who serve children under age should also be imposed on those who send children knowing them to be under age. I have dealt with the word "knowingly" as it affects the publican. Now we come to the question of the parent who, knowing the child to be under age —I suppose the parent is perhaps of all people best qualified to judge—sends him for liquor. On this point the Minority Report does not express any opinion, Opinions have been expressed that it would be exceedingly difficult to obtain their conviction, and that it would naturally be a painful process the putting of children into the witness-box to give evidence against their parents or guardians. That would be a very painful state of things, but it is a condition of things that prevails from day to day in cases affecting cruelty committed on children. But would it be necessary? The production of a birth certificate would be evidence of the guilt or innocence of the parent of the child, and is it right for us to make a law imposing a penalty upon the publican, who cannot know the age accurately, and who at the best has to judge and guess—and the penalties on him must in their cumulative results inevitably entail the loss of his licence—while we let the parent off scot free? If a parent made up his mind to defy the House of Commons and the law, he could send his boy to a public-house one day and to another next day, and the holders of the licences would in turn be fined, and the parent would go scot free all the while. I do not think that is in accordance with the sense of equity and justice which ought to govern our decisions when a law of that kind is made. Punish the publican if he breaks the law, but punish the parent also, who is more responsible than the publican for the breach of the law. I press that point most strongly upon the promoters of the Bill. At all events, the same measure of punishment should be awarded to each.

I now come to another matter, and that is with regard to the age. I want to ask the promoters of this Bill to consider whether the age of fourteen or fifteen would not be a safer age than that proposed in the Bill. [Cries of "Committee."] My hon. friends opposite say "Committee." I quite agree that these are Committee points, but they are points which have been again and again brought before the notice of the promoters of the Bill. This is not a hastily drawn measure, but it is the calm and deliberate conclusion of those interested in the Bill, and it is their fault and not mine if I have to reiterate once more arguments and suggestions with which they are already familiar. I would respectfully suggest that the age here fixed is too high. It is dangerously near the limit at which the children can obtain liquor for themselves. It is a very undesirable meeting of two periods, and the promoters would do well to reduce the age to fourteen or fifteen years.

We have heard a good deal about the Committee stage of the Bill. Hon. Members opposite have cried "Committee, Committee" when points of objection have been taken. May I appeal to them to let the Committee be a Committee of the whole House? The Bill applies to England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland, and I think the House has no more profitable or useful way of employing its Wednesday afternoons after Whitsuntide than in its collective capacity, sitting as a Committee and making this Bill, which contains in it a principle of much good, a useful and practical measure which should inflict small hardship upon the community and no injustice upon any class, and which should at the same time do something to safeguard the children of the poor from the evils of a too early contamination from association with drink.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): In rising to address this House for the first time, and to support this most important Bill, I ask for its indulgence for a few moments to enable me to give expression to my views, as I feel very strongly upon the matter. The object of the Bill is indeed a noble one, namely, to check and prevent the evil of intemperance, which, sad to say, plays havoc in many a comfortable home. The object is to rear and educate a race of men into the knowledge that to be sober is to be free; to recognise the fact that sobriety is a very great element in the making of their material happiness and prosperity; and, acting on that conviction, to endeavour to attain a high moral standard of which a nation may feel proud. I speak from an Irish point of view and on behalf of every right-minded and hopeful person in my constituency who loves his country and desires to see her lifted up again into the proud position she once held, when she was recognised throughout the world as a great and glorious nation. The Bill is not the product of temperance fanatics. It is backed up by thousands and thousands of men, who, like myself, desire to see moderate reform in the licensing laws, and who will feel greatly disappointed and aggrieved if the Bill does not become law. The Royal Commission were almost unanimously in favour of legislation in this matter. They even went beyond the provisions of the Bill, as they were of opinion that a penalty should be imposed not only on the seller of intoxicating liquors to children under age, but also on those who send the children, knowing them to be under age. I also am of that opinion, but that, I understand, is a matter for Committee. What did the Royal Commission say with regard to Ireland? It said:—

"In our opinion it is desirable that children under the age of sixteen should not be served with intoxicating liquors for consumption by themselves or other persons either on or off the premises, and that the law should thus be assimilated to that which we recommend for England. The same remark which we have already made with regard to England applies here, namely, that great caution should be used in not hastily legislating in advance of what public opinion would sanction."

What is the general feeling in Ireland with regard to the Bill? I am glad to say the hon. Members for South Leitrim and West Clare do not speak the sentiments of the great majority of the Irish party. The Chairman and the majority of that party are entirely in favour of the measure, and, as expressing the opinion of the people of Ireland, I will read two resolutions which were unanimously adopted at most representative conventions. In February last a meeting of the National Temperance Conference was held in Dublin, at which the following resolution was unanimously adopted—

"That this representative Conference begs most earnestly to urge upon the Government and upon Irish Members of Parliament the pressing necessity and importance of giving legislative effect to the following recommendations——"

amongst them being the prevention of the sale of intoxicating liquor to children under sixteen years of age. On the same evening, at a meeting of the Irish Association for the Prevention of Intemperance, the following resolution, on the motion of the Protestant Bishop of Killaloe, was also unanimously adopted—

"That this meeting, realising the grave evils, both physical and moral, arising from the employment of children as messengers to public-houses, and being convinced that public opinion in Ireland is unanimous in desiring that children should be safeguarded for this practice, calls upon the Government to promote such legislation as will carry into effect the unanimous recommendations of the Royal Commission by prohibiting all sale of intoxicating drink to any child under sixteen years of age for any purpose whatever."

In addition to that, a great number of representative bodies in Ireland have passed resolutions in favour of the Bill, amongst them being the Corporation of the City of Dublin. It may be argued that if the parents are deprived of the right of sending children under sixteen years of age to the public-houses they will send others who are beyond that age, or perhaps go themselves. Even though that be so, which is the greater evil? Is it not that where the young plant is exposed to the storm the chances are that it will perish in the tempest, whereas the full-grown tree will stand a great deal of weather, and though it may bend for the moment it will right itself if sown in good soil? At all events, the fault lies with the grown-up people themselves if they do not shelter themselves behind the ramparts of their own modesty, common-sense, and virtue. I unhesitatingly affirm that the greatest evil exists where young people, whose eyes and ears are open to everything, whose impressions are lasting, and who have not a mind of their own, are exposed to the temptation. Let us, then, in the name of God, adopt this remedy at once. Let us not lag behind Canada, New Zealand, and parts of Australia, where a similar provision is already in force. Let us cast aside all political differences of opinion for the moment in solving this great social problem, and act immediately for the good of our respective countries, as we can do in a humble way, by voting in favour of the Bill now before the House.

MR. MIDDLEMORE (Birmingham, N.): I suppose there are very few Members of the House who do not feel that it is an extremely undesirable thing for young children to frequent public-houses or in any way to associate themselves with the drinking habits of the country. I certainly hold that opinion very strongly, but yet I am of opinion that I cannot give any hearty support to this Bill. I listened with much respect to the speeches of the mover and seconder, and I must confess I was almost anxious to be convinced, but my opinion remains the same. The Bill, in the first place, limits the parents' rights, and what is more, it limits their ability to discharge a duty in regard to selecting which child they think best to discharge a duty special to themselves and special to their own children. The State is rather to select the child, or at any rate it is to suggest the selection. Strangely enough, the State selects just the very worst possible age. It enters the house of a working man, and, laying its insensitive hand on a boy of fifteen, says, "You are not to go," and then laying its hand on the girl of sixteen it says, "You may go." Unless the parent is doing what is really wrong, the State has no right to do that. The parent is not doing what is wrong, he is doing what is relatively right in sending the child under sixteen; but the law will be doing what is relatively wrong in insisting that a child over sixteen should be sent. The age of sixteen is the most capricious, difficult, and unreliable age of all. It is the age at which boys and girls begin to sow their wild oats. In boarding houses in Canada it is considered most unwise to send children between the ages of fourteen and eighteen to the public-house, and that sixteen is of all ages the worst conceivable. I admit the evil, but my fear and belief is that you are going to abolish one evil by the creation of another of a greater and more serious character. You are attaching a special disability to the parents of the working classes, but I do not lay very great stress upon that. You are modifying the relations they have with their own children, but I do not lay very great stress upon that. I simply say that hon. Members here would not like to be placed in a similar position. The law will very frequently be broken. The parent and the child will be accomplices in breaking the law, and, worse still, if there is a prosecution the child will have to appear as a witness, not, it is true, against the parent, but against the man who supplied the beer. You will embitter the relations with the parent; you will create ill-will, and that, it seems to me, is an undoubted objection to this Bill. If the law is actually obeyed, the parent will often have to fetch his own dinner and Sunday beer. Is that wise? If he has to fetch his beer will he not stay in the public-house to drink it? and will he not drink more than he otherwise would? Are you not substituting drinking on the premises for drinking off the premises? Up to a certain point I am a friend of this Bill, and I have spoken to friends of the Bill about it. They say that this Bill is to save the children, and if the parent will have to go for his beer he must. That is a very superficial view. A man cannot suffer alone. Supposing his wife and children suffer with him? I would that I only could be punished for the wrong I have done, but that cannot be. My life is not isolated; others are involved; you cannot do the children greater harm than by putting temptation in the way of the parents. What moral right have we in this of all countries to say, "You may send that girl of sixteen, but you may not send that boy of fifteen"? I contend that if this Bill passes, not only will the law be broken, but the law of God also will be broken. The parents ought to use their right of selection. It may be quite fair to consider whether local option is good or whether public-houses should be closed at certain hours; but it is not fair to enter a working man's house and prevent that working man doing his bounden duty in making a selection as to the child he should send to the public-house. That is the parents' special business, it is nobody else's business, and they only should discharge that duty.

MR. HALDANE (Haddingtonshire): The speech of the hon. Member for West Limerick afforded the last proof that was wanting that this Bill is the Bill of no section or party. It has been advocated from every section of the House in a fashion which shows that to-day the House of Commons is discharging one of its most important duties. Whatever outside critics may say, upon this occasion we are giving or trying to give effect to what is obviously the drift of matured public opinion. In that condition of things I rise not for the purpose of addressing to the House any detailed arguments in support of the principle of the Bill, because upon the principle, I think, there has been general agreement even on the part of those who have criticised the Bill, but for the purpose of suggesting that the right hon. Gentleman who represents the Government should as soon as possible put us in possession of the views of the Government on the matter. I cannot doubt that those views will be friendly, and that they will show a disposition on the part of the Government to assist private Members to put upon the Statute-book what, after all, has been under consideration for a very long time, and what we all, or nearly all, desire to have embodied among our laws. It is the more necessary that we should have that expression of views soon, because I noticed from the speech of the hon. Member for West Bradford that there may be a question as to the form the subsequent proceedings with regard to this Bill should take. The hon. Member threw out a rather ominous suggestion about a Committee of the whole House. To send the Bill to a Committee of the whole House instead of to its obvious place—a Grand Committee—would be to stultify the professions of those who profess to be favourable to the measure. I therefore hope we may soon be able to vote on the principle of the Bill, and then settle what form the subsequent stages should take.

The hon. Member for North Birmingham argued mainly upon the fact that the Bill proposed to take out of the hands of parents the right, I think he said, to select the child who should discharge what might be a family duty. The hon. Member comes from a city which took a very leading part in formulating the great Education Act of 1870, and if the State has decided one thing more definitely than anything else in that Act with regard to children it is that it has the right to limit the powers of parents over their children in directing their duties whenever it thinks the individual direction of their duties might conflict with their well-being. The hon. Member for West Bradford made a very interesting speech, but I must confess it was a speech which puzzled me very much. He expressed himself very decidedly in favour of the principle of the Bill. That did not surprise anyone who knows with what real zeal the hon. Member has worked in educational matters in London, and in such matters as prison reform touching child life. But when the hon. Member puts upon the Notice Paper a motion inviting the House to decline to proceed with legislation excepting upon the basis of imposing a punishment upon the parent as distinguished from the publican, and then further talks of a Committee of the Whole House, I confess I feel a little puzzled, and I think the hon. Member himself must feel a little puzzled, as to what the tendency of his speech really was. If the House is in favour of putting a penalty on the parent as well as on the seller of the liquor, I, for my part, do not see why it should not be done. It is all a question of what is thought best. I look upon this Bill as one meant not to harass either parents or publicans, but to develop and form public opinion by laying down a standard to which the public may be expected to conform. I look upon it as endeavouring to raise the standard of public opinion upon this matter, and to introduce a new practice which will preclude the evils with which we are only too familiar. Therefore any mere question of what should be the form of penalty, or where there should be this or that clause germane to the carrying out of an object upon which we are all agreed, seems to me to be beside the point in a Second Reading discussion on a Wednesday afternoon. The hon. Gentleman also referred to the absence of the word "knowingly." If he had read the Bill he would have noticed that the promoters have provided for that very point, because the penalty is imposed upon anybody who sells to a person *apparently* under the age of sixteen. There must be such an appearance as brings home to the mind of the person selling the liquor a guilty knowledge. The very object of the word "apparently" is to prevent an innocent man who has made a mistake being punished. If the thing can be made better in Grand Committee it should be done. I, for my part, have never wished in these matters to pass legislation which might make it impossible for people to carry on a business which the State has authorised. In dealing with this question to-day, I think it is one of the best signs that we have had for a long time that, as the mover of the Second Reading said, the House has approached the temperance problem from a new point of view—from the point of view neither of attacking the liquor interest nor of refusing moderate measures of reform because larger measures are not forthcoming. The House seems to me to be treating this matter in an eminently practical spirit. It has taken up a great social question, but not in a party sense. The general principle has been supported from all sides, and I think this would be a convenient time to hear from the Government a statement of the attitude they are going to assume.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. JESSE COLLINGS, Birmingham, Bordesley): I will first of all refer to the earnest and moderate manner in which this discussion has been carried on, and I am not surprised that the House would be glad to know the view of the Government with regard to the measure. That I can give in a very few words. The Government regard this as in no sense a party measure, and they propose to adopt the same course as on a previous occasion, and to leave the question absolutely in the hands of the House. I regret that the Home Secretary cannot be present, and still more regret the cause of his absence. He is confined to bed by illness, and very much regrets not being able to be present. I have very carefully ascertained his views on this question, and those views he wishes me to place as well as I can before the House. In giving those views he speaks, of course, for himself, and not for the Government. He wishes that this Bill might be read a second time, as he has already expressed himself in favour of a similar measure, but he thinks the House should consider very carefully certain points, which, although details, might be regarded as almost equally important as principles. He lays great stress on the age, which, he thinks, should be fourteen instead of sixteen. He goes further, and lays stress on what he considers to be a vital part of the Bill—the penalising of a publican for serving children under sixteen years of age. It is quite true that the word "apparently" is in the Bill, but there are one or two things in the minds of those who placed it there. Either "apparently" is more vague than "knowingly," in which case I presume it was put in for that purpose, or it is the same thing as "knowingly," in which case why cannot "knowingly" be put in?—especially as the word "knowingly" is recommended by the Royal Commission Reports, both majority and minority. It would therefore be interesting to learn from subsequent speakers whether the promoters are willing to accept this less vague word, which provides a greater safeguard than the word "apparently" against unjustly penalising the publican.

There is also another matter upon which the Home Secretary lays great stress. It is alleged that both the Majority Report and the Minority Report are unanimous in recommending the principle of the measure so far as serving children under sixteen years of age is concerned. That is not quite an accurate statement of the case. The Report of the majority lays great stress on the necessity of there being public opinion behind the proposal. It states—

> "Legislation in this direction, therefore, should not be undertaken except after the fullest discussion with those best qualified to speak for the class affected, otherwise a strong reaction might follow."

On this point my right hon. friend makes a very important suggestion, which I am inclined to think will recommend itself to those who wish to see a measure of a practical kind. He has come to the conclusion that a measure of this kind should be of an adoptive character. I think myself that that is a statesmanlike suggestion, and one which will overcome very many difficulties, because, as the right hon. Gentleman states, there are many districts which are naturally very apprehensive as to the working of a measure of this kind. If it were put into force in districts where it was adopted by the local authorities, it is very likely that all those apprehensions would be found to be groundless, and that the result of this legislation, strong as it is, would be unaccompanied by the evil and inconveniences which too many appear to attach to it. It would therefore seem to my right hon. friend that the best way to obtain the general adoption of a measure such as this would be by securing the consent of the local authorities, which undoubtedly is a greater guarantee that public opinion is behind the change than any other form of expression which could be obtained. The promoters will signify whether or not they accept such a suggestion as that. I confess, as far as I am concerned—and I have no doubt there are others in the House in the same position—the course they adopt would influence my vote to a very large degree. The point is whether or not a local authority would consent, and, perhaps, on the pressure of its constituents, should be allowed to put the Bill in force, or whether it should be applied in all districts whether they want it or not. My right hon. friend is also of opinion that public opinion is greatly growing in favour of this Bill. That is another argument, I think, in favour of the suggestion he makes. He is in all cases most heartily in favour of any measure that can save the children from any evil which may attach to their being sent to public-houses.

I have, as accurately as possible, given the House the views of my right hon. friend which he would have given had he been able to be in his place to-day. If I may say a word or two, not as a member of the Government, but from my own point of view, I should be very thankful if the House will allow me to state them, because I am, and have been all my life, in favour of temperance and all temperance movements. It seems to me we are considering two classes of questions, or rather two positions for separate treatment, and this different treatment can only be secured by making any measure that might be passed one of an adoptive character. There are two sets of opinion—London and provincial. I am afraid of London I have a very small opinion. I do not know much about its social aspect. I seriously mean what I say when I remember the influence which appertains to the capital of any other country in Europe and the influence which appertains to the great provincial life of our nation. Provincial life and opinion are more worthy of being followed than any opinion that emanates from London.

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea): What about Camberwell?

AN HON. MEMBER: What about Battersea?

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: No wonder London is Tory.

*MR. JESSE COLLINGS: Any Bill for the treatment of the supply of drink to children is applicable to London, where there are gin-palaces, bars, and all the appurtenances of great drinking establishments.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): Are there none in Birmingham?

*MR. JESSE COLLINGS: Yes, no doubt there are, and in Liverpool, Manchester, and other large towns. What I say is that a measure which is applicable and beneficial to these large places may be altogether mischievous and unacceptable, and cause inconvenience to other smaller places in the United Kingdom. With regard to sending one's own children to fetch beer—and that is the best test—it seems to me that I would rather send a child of tender years to these gin palaces where drunken men may congregate and where drunken women may be found, than a young person, especially a girl, of sixteen years of age.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): Then make it eighteen.

*MR. JESSE COLLINGS: In the one case the harm would be but passing; in the other it might be permanent. But what about the thousands of parishes in this country where the working classes are not drunken, where they are as careful of their own children as any other people, where they go home to dinner—I speak from some experience of the conditions of the village life and the small towns—and where the mother with only one pair of hands, having no servant and no cellar, and where the only unoccupied member of the family available is under sixteen years of age? There are thousands, I might say millions, in the position so well described by the hon. Member for Portsmouth. Is that man to be prevented from sending that child to the public-house of a small town, where there is no more danger than in sending it to a grocer's shop? I want hon. Members to consider whether they are going to try to impose on the working-class families who exist under the conditions I name. It is all very well for those who have servants, or who do not consider beer necessary, to suggest these restrictions; but beer is considered by the great bulk of the respectable working people of this country to be necessary. Setting aside the large towns where these dangers are supposed to exist, are you to prevent the working-class women from sending the only unoccupied child to fetch that which they consider necessary for the legitimate consumption of the family? Such action would, I think, be regarded as an interference with domestic life and with the liberty of the subject. It would be resented as such, and it would defeat the object of the Bill. I am advancing these views in order to ask the promoters of the Bill whether the acceptance of the adoptive principle is not the nearest way to securing the universal approval of their measure. I admit that there is a large amount of public opinion in favour of this Bill. Thousands of petitions have been presented in its favour. But too much importance must not be attached to those petitions. The temperance party, which has the finest organisation in the country, can turn out petitions by the thousand. They can turn out such petitions at the word of command, and he hoped the House would not, therefore, attach undue importance to them.

MR. TRITTON (Lambeth, Norwood): What about the London School Board?

*MR. JESSE COLLINGS: I know nothing about the London School Board. I do not want the petitions ignored, but I do not want you to attach too much importance to them. But there is another kind of public opinion. I have noted organised public opinion, but there is the unorganised public opinion, which consists of the masses of individuals not organised, and who do not express their opinion, but who, if a law of this sort were passed, which interfered with their daily convenience and affect them in a manner they would consider unfair, would show their opinion in some quarters by almost rebellion. My hon. friend the Member for Portsmouth referred to a pamphlet which has been issued by a committee presided over by the Bishop of Hereford. This pamphlet represents children as spending all their money in drink, as swilling glasses of raw whisky and being summoned for drunkenness before the police courts. I do not doubt the truth of those statements, but they are put in such a form that if any stranger to the facts were to read them he would think that it represented the type of the children of the working classes of this country. The great masses of the working class of this country ought not to be subjected to any such inference as may be drawn from that statement. As a class they are as careful of their own children as any other class. They look after them as well as circumstances will allow, and except as regards an infinitesimal percentage that state of things does not represent them at all. They are more thrifty, more temperate, more respectable, and better educated, and in a better condition generally than at any previous period of the history of this country. Therefore, I protest against putting it in a form to indicate that there is such a prevalence of these shocking cases as to render universal legislation necessary. With regard to the provision for penalising the publican, I may say I was not at all satisfied with the reasons given for that action by the mover and seconder of the Bill. Are they afraid to put the penalty on the parents who alone can know whether they are breaking the law? They do not propose to penalise the parent, but the publican, who they think can pay the penalty. By making the measure adoptive, although altering the character of the measure, they would be able to determine the amount of support which it will receive, not only in the House, but in many parts of the country where the Bill is not accepted at the present time. I thank the House for listening to me, and I hope we shall hear something from the promoters of the Bill as to whether the suggestion of the Home Secretary is received with favour or not

*Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): The right hon. Gentleman need not have apologised for speaking on this subject. We were glad to hear him. His speech was divided into two parts, one of which was devoted to expressing the views of the Government——

*Mr. JESSE COLLINGS: Of the Home Secretary.

*Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT: Well, when I was Home Secretary and spoke in this House, I expressed the sentiments of the Government, especially on this question. The Home Secretary we heard a few weeks ago, in speaking to a deputation on the temperance question in language not encouraging. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Bordesley has now confided to us his personal sentiments upon this subject. He protested against language likely to give foreign nations a bad opinion of this country. And yet the right hon. Gentleman has declared that he himself has the meanest opinion of London. The right hon. Gentleman, though he said he knew nothing about the social aspect of London, knew something about London elections. I do not know what he calls the social aspect of London, and whether his judgment is founded on his experience of Society in the West or in the East End of London. What has caused him to come to his present opinion? Was it the most recent election, or was it the election which took place in the autumn?

*Mr. JESSE COLLINGS: I never said a word about elections at all.

*Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT: If the adoptive principle is to be introduced it must be introduced somewhere—and perhaps by the very Metropolis of which he has such a mean opinion. When I first entered Parliament the voice of Birmingham was very different from what it is now. In those days I acted with Mr. Dixon as a supporter of the Birmingham Educational League; and there was not the same objection to the compulsion of parents at that time.

I am bound to say that that movement advanced education in the greatest degree and ultimately secured for us compulsory education. Is it not an invasion of the rights of parents to say that a child shall not be kept at home, but must be sent to school? When did the right hon. Gentleman acquire this horror of interfering with the rights of parents? As to the part of the speech in which the right hon. Gentleman expressed his personal opinion, I confess I can hardly make out what that opinion is. During the latter part of the Under Secretary's speech the right hon. Member for East Fife, a former Home Secretary, came into the House and said, "Is he speaking for or against the Bill?" The answer which I was obliged to give to my right hon. friend was, "Honestly, I cannot tell you." The right hon. Gentleman has said he is in favour of the Second Reading of the Bill, but in expressing his own opinion he has set up in his speech every possible objection that can be imagined against it, and the latter part was as adverse to the Bill as it was possible to conceive.

He has spoken of the rural districts. I am happy to say I live more of my life in the country than in the town, and if there is any part of this country in which the evil of drunkenness requires to be dealt with more it is in the rural districts. [Ministerial cries of "No."] That is my observation, made from my own knowledge, and if I may be allowed to give my reason it is because the police themselves are not encouraged to put it down. [Cries of "Question" and a laugh.] I do not know whether the hon. Gentleman who laughs in that way is a magistrate of quarter sessions or not.

Now I pass from the personal views of the right hon. Gentleman to those of the Home Secretary, which he translated to us. The Home Secretary has stated that his experience in his present office has impressed upon him the tremendous evil produced by drunkenness. The present Bill is intended to prevent children from being exposed at an age when their judgment gives them no defence to the incitements and habits of drink. While I am in doubt as to the real spirit of the right hon. Gentleman in regard to this Bill, I am still more puzzled by the right hon. Gentleman's interpretation of the views of the Home Secretary. But it is clear at least that the Home Secretary desires the Bill to be read a second time. For the purposes of this afternoon we all ought to be satisfied with that. Let us read this Bill a second time, and then let us consider the objections that have been made to it. One objection to it is the use of the word "apparent," as though it implies some covert meaning, and it is proposed that there should be an explanation of the introduction of that word in the Bill in justice to the public. It is a remarkable fact that this word is employed in the Act of 1872. It has also been used in the Act prohibiting the sale of explosives to children and in the Pawnbrokers' Act. In fact, whenever Parliament deals with the age of children, and where they are prohibited from certain acts in these matters, the word "apparent" has been used.

MR. FLOWER: Not in the Act of 1886.

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: I did not say it was. I was pointing out a proviso which I think is worthy of the consideration of the House. In the Criminal Law Amendments Act there was a proviso which fixed the age at which outrages should be punishable, and which laid it down that it should be a sufficient defence to any charge under this section if brought before a court and jury, providing that the person so charged showed reasonable cause of belief that the girl was over the age of sixteen. I am speaking with the authority of the gentleman promoting this Bill when I say that they are perfectly willing to deal with this word "apparently" by the substitution of any other phrase that may be regarded as satisfactory. I confess I think the proviso to which I have referred is a very reasonable one.

The right hon. Gentleman has cited the opinion of the Home Secretary in favour of this Bill with the adoptive principle, but he has not told us what is to be the machinery for adopting it. Is it local option? I should like to know that, because it is a very incomplete revelation that we are not to be told who are the persons to adopt these measures, and when the right hon. Gentleman offers us his support he does not tell us what the method of adoption is to be. Has the Home Office already got its amendments to this Bill, with a complete scheme of adoptive measures? Let us be thankful for such mercies and let us read this Bill a second time. Let there be an opportunity for all to understand the proposal of the Government. There are said to be objections which, if not properly dealt with, would destroy the main objects of the Bill, which is to keep young children out of the public-houses. Let us, then, see whether we can carry this Bill with such modifications and such mitigations as would carry it to a successful issue. My hon. friend who introduced this Bill, in a speech as distinguished for lucidity as any I have ever heard, stated that the success or the failure of this Bill depended upon the treatment it received at the hands of the Government. I hope the Government will give it every facility and a cordial reception. I hope hon. Members on both sides of the House will work together, and I trust it will be dealt with in a proper spirit before it is sent to the other House. We have heard the views of young Ireland on this matter. We have had a speech from the hon. Member for West Limerick, distinguished by eloquence and earnestness, and I am sure hon. Members on both sides of the House will hear that voice with pleasure on future occasions. With that unanimity of feeling on this Bill, why should we divide upon the Bill.? I hope we shall send it to a place where alone it will be dealt with with advantage. It has been proposed to deal with it in Committee of the whole House, but that is a proposal which would destroy it. I will not detain the House any longer, but I trust there will be a concordance of sentiment and unanimity of opinion that will lead us to read this Bill a second time.

MR. BARTLEY said he would like to add his views to the debate, because he had always taken a great interest in social questions. The reason why he objected to this measure was that he regarded it not as a measure tending to promote temperance nor one which would alleviate and improve the social position of the families of the working classes. The real issue they were to consider was whether the working man was to be allowed to drink beer or not. Was it to be made a crime for him to have a glass of beer at his midday meal? Personally, he was almost a teetotaller, but it seemed to him odd that the men who employed servants in their houses and clubs and rang the bell for wines and spirits should have the audacity to say that a man should not be allowed to send his child to the public-house. Why could not hon. Members have the courage of their opinions, and bring in a Bill to prohibit the sale of alcohol absolutely? That would be a reasonable and a straightforward action. But they were not prepared to do that. They knew very well that the legitimate use of beer was not a crime, and ought not to be considered a crime. It was a reasonable, natural, and proper beverage for a man to drink in moderation. Were they to say that a working man who could not keep a cellar for his beer was to be deprived of this privilege of getting it? But if he were to be deprived of this means he would say that it was more dangerous for a girl of sixteen years of age and upwards to be sent to a public-house than it was for a younger child. If the law prohibited girls under sixteen years being sent they would still have the evil of sending girls of seventeen and eighteen years. He had a higher opinion of the people of London than the representative of the Government, and he believed that the whole of the metropolis would hold its own with those great provincial centres that the right hon. Gentleman had referred to. But he would say this, that if the measure were voted simply upon its merits they would never dream of carrying it. The House had given way to a sort of momentary sentimentality. Everyone agreed that alcohol should not be sold to children for them to consume, but surely if he chose to take his boy out for a bicycle run, and they entered an inn for refreshment, no one would say that it was a crime that that boy should have a glass of beer? When he was at school they used to have beer and they called it "swipes." It was unreasonable thus to interfere with the habits of the people. If the Government interfered with this and similar privileges, they would have the whole mass of the working classes against them. There would be a great reaction which would be very serious to the country itself. Nobody could say that he had not done his utmost to promote temperance. Yet he believed it would be a great mistake to carry this measure, as its effect would be to retard the progress of temperance.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON (Armagh, N.): My hon. friend who has just sat down does not appear to have read the Bill, because if he were going down with his son into the country on a bicycle, there is no reason why he should not have a glass of beer if he wanted it. His difficulty seems to be that if this Bill is passed his son will not be able to "stand" the liquor for him. Now, on this Bill I should like to say three words upon the mistaken views taken by the opponents of the Bill as to what we want to do. We want to prevent these children going into public-houses and acquiring in that atmosphere what we believe to be pernicious habits, and we believe that if this Bill is passed into law, and it becomes the law of this country that children under sixteen years of age should not be sent, we should find in years to come that children never would be sent. If the hon. Gentleman who moved the Bill and the hon. Gentleman who seconded it had devised a means for carrying this Bill through the House, they could not have devised a better one than by getting the two speeches made which were made in support of the rejection of it. The hon. Member who moved the rejection said it would interfere with golf players. I never remember seeing a golf player send for liquor, even when he was in a bunker. The hon. Member for South Leitrim opposed the Bill because it would interfere with Ireland—that it was another injustice to Ireland. Now, I agree with the Bill, not only because I think it is a good measure, but because I know that people of all creeds and all classes in Ireland are in its favour. The working men representatives in this House are almost unanimous in its favour, and no one can doubt that if the working classes of this country were opposed to a Bill of this kind they would make their voices heard against it. I am entirely in favour of this Bill, and I think most of the objections we have heard are objections which ought to be made in Committee. As for the right hon. Gentleman on the Treasury Bench, I am unable from his remarks to gather whether he is for or against the Bill. I have not the slightest idea what position he takes up, but in a matter of this kind, which so deeply touches our hearts, I think a responsible Minister of the Government ought to have given us some intimation of what the concensus of opinion of the Government is upon this subject. I regret that so few Members of the Government are present, but I can assure the right hon. Gentlemen who are present that they make a very great mistake if they think that this measure can be set aside or burked in Committee. The country will hold the Government responsible for seeing that this measure, if it passes its Second Reading, is carried into law this session, and, knowing as I do that no Bill has ever been brought into this House which is so backed by public opinion as this measure, I say the Government will make a great mistake if they do not offer to this Bill every facility to pass it into law. My principal object in rising was to make this appeal to the Government in order to get some Member of the Government to tell us if it is their intention to allow the Bill to become law.

*MR. MARSHALL HALL (Lancashire, Southport) said he cordially supported the Bill, his justification in so doing being that it was impossible to over-estimate the interest taken in this subject in his constituency. He regretted that the Government had not thought fit to make it a Government measure, and if the Government took any notice of the Bill at all he hoped it would not be for the purpose of attempting to shelve it. After the Janus-like speech from the Front Bench it was difficult to know whether the Government supported the Bill or not. The real object of the Bill was to safeguard the moral health of the children and to prevent them from being contaminated by the evils of drink. . It was not to deal with the adult population at all. But if the age at which a child could be served with drink was fixed at sixteen the real object of the Bill might be defeated, because if the age limit was fixed too high the people to whom this measure would apply would have no person to send. Beer could not be stored in the same way as spirits, and therefore if a working man wanted beer with his dinner, either he must go and get it or his wife must go and get it, or he would have to send somebody over the age of sixteen. It was very improbable that he would have anybody at home at that age, because that was the age when a working-man's children had to go out and begin to earn their own living, and if the age was fixed at sixteen the effect would be that children of a more tender age would be sent, and told on reaching the public-house to ask the first bystander to go in and buy the beer, in return, probably, for the "long pull." No man would be hard-hearted enough to refuse, and the result would be the very mischief at which the Bill was aimed. He believed that if the age was fixed at sixteen the object of the Bill would be defeated, and he suggested that the age of fourteen should be substituted. The question had been asked why beer should be put on a different footing to milk; he thought it should not, but that it should be allowed to be taken round in the same way as milk. He took no notice of the ridicule of the House upon that point, because if between the hours of 12 and 1.30 in the day facilities were given to respectable publicans to supply their customers in this way with beer the difficulty of the child messenger would at once be got rid of. The working man would have an opportunity of getting his beer as he wanted it, both as to quantity and condition. He put forward that suggestion because he thought it was worthy of consideration. He did not think that the word "apparently" was a word that should remain in the Bill, because the publican would be liable if he supplied a person who was over the age of sixteen, but apparently under that age, and he thought the word "knowingly" ought to be substituted for it when the Bill became an Act, or a clause similar to that in the Criminal Law Amendment Act inserted. It also might be possible to make a distinction between the gin palace and the off-licensed house. What was wanted to secure the passing of such a Bill was a consensus of moderate opinion. Such a Bill was required, and they must support the best measure for the purpose before the House. The principle of the Bill was sound, however imperfect the details, and he hoped the Bill would become law at the earliest possible moment.

MR. CROMBIE rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided: Ayes, 407; Noes, 31. (Division List No. 80.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
Abraham, Wm. (Rhondda)
Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Aird, Sir John
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc., Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Atherley-Jones, L.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Barlow, John Emmott
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Bartley, George C. T.
Bayley, Thos. (Derbyshire)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Beckett, Ernest William
Bell, Richard
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, Alexander H. (Shropsh.
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bull, William James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Butcher, John George
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carew, James Laurence
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Carvil, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Causton, Richard Knight
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire
Cawley, Frederick
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chapman, Edward
Clancy, John Joseph
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Colville, John
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cook, Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cremer, William Randal
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cullinan, J.
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Daly, James
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, Sir Horatio D (Chatham
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dewar, T. R. (Tr'H'mlets, S Geo.
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Dunn, Sir William
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin

Elibank, Master of
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Faber, George Denison
Fardell, Sir T. George
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir R. Penrose-
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward A.
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.
Fowler, Rt. Hn. Sir Henry
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Garfit, William
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbert J.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin&Nairn
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Graham, Henry Robert
Grant, Corrie
Greene, Sir E. W. (Bury St. Ed.)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marq of (L'nd'nderry
Hammond, John
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. Wm.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.
Hardie, J. K. (M'thyr Tydvil)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th
Harwood, George
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Heath, Arthur H. (Hanley)
Helder, Augustus
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hobhouse, Hy. (Somerset, E.)
Hogg, Lindsay
Holland, William Henry
Hope, John D. (Fife, West)
Horniman, Frederick John
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, Capt. J. (K'nt, Faversh
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hughes, Col. Edwin
Humphrys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon, James (Lancs., Bury)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.
Kinloch, Sir John Geo. Smyth
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Langley, Batty
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Lecky, Rt. Hn. Wm. Edw. H.
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Leveson-Gower, Fred. N. S.
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lough, Thomas
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Cann, James
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mappin, Sir Fredk. Thorpe
Markham, Arthur Basil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Mather, William
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H E (Wigton
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Mildmay, Francis Bigham
Milward, Col. Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Mooney, John J.
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Morley, Rt. Hn. J. (Montrose)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Mount, William Arthur
Murphy, J.
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Nicholson, William Graham
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Neill, Hon. Robt. Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Palmer, George W. (Reading)
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Gilbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, Sir Joseph W. (Durham)
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robt. Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, John Wynford
Pilkington, Richard
Pirie, Duncan V.
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond J. E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Reid, Sir R. T. (Dumfries)
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ridley, S. F. (Bethnal Green)
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Col. Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel W.
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. Edw. J
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)

Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw, Charles E. (Stafford)
Shaw-Stewart, M.H.(Renfrew
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair,Capt.John(Forfarsh.)
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith,HC(North'mb.Tyn's'de
Smith,JamesParker(Lanarks.
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spear, John Ward
Spencer,Rt.Hn.C.R(Northants
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stevenson, Francis S.
Stewart, Sir. M. J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir J. M.
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf.Univ.
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Alfred(Glamorgan,E.
Thomas,DavidAlfred(Merthyr
Thomas,F.Freeman-(Hastings
Thomas,J.A.(Glam'rg'n,Gow'r
Thompson,E.C.(Monaghan,N.
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Wallace, Robert
Walrond,Rt.Hn.SirWilliamH
Walton,JohnLawson(Leeds,S.
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Warner,Thomas Courtenay T.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason,Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
Welby,Lt.-Col.A.C.E(Taunt'n
Welby,SirCharlesG.E(Notts.)
Wharton, Rt. Hon.JohnLloyd
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond(Merioneth
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson,A.Stanley(York,E.R.)
Wilson,Fred.W.(Norfolk,Mid
Wilson, Henry J. (York,W.R.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson,J.W.(Worcestersh. N.
Wilson-Todd,Wm.H.(Yorks.)
Wodehouse,Hn.Armine(Essex
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.(Hudrsfld.
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young,Commander(Berks,E.)
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Crombie and Mr. Tritton.

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Allsopp, Hon. George
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Banbury, Frederick George
Bathurst, Hn.Allen Benjamin
Boyle, James
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Crean, Eugene
Dyke,Rt.Hn.Sir WilliamHart
Farrell, James Patrick
Fergusson,RtHn.SirJ.(Manc'r
Gibbs,HnA.G.H.(CityofLond.
Godson,SirAugustusFrederick
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Heath, James(Staffords.N.W.
Heaton, John Henniker
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Lowther, Rt.Hn.James(Kent)
Lucas, ReginaldJ.(Portsm'uth
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Majendie, James A. H.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, J. (Roscommon, N.)
Pierpoint, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Simeon, Sir Barrington

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Major Jameson and Mr. Tully.

Question put accordingly, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

The House divided: Ayes, 372; Noes, 54. (Division List No. 81.)

AYES.

Abraham,William(Cork,N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Aird, Sir John
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Allen,CharlesP(Glouc.,Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith,RtHn.HerbertHenry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt.JoscelineFitzRoy
Bain, Col. James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Barlow, John Emmott
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Beckett, Ernest William
Bell, Richard
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middle'x
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown,AlexanderH.(Shropsh.
Brown,George M.(Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Butcher, John George
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carew, James Laurence
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Carvill,Patrick Geo.Hamilton
Causton, Richard Knight
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V.C. W. (Derbysh.
Cawley, Frederick
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chapman, Edward
Clancy, John Joseph
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H.A.E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett,A.Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cremer, William Randal
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, H. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cullinan, J.
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles

Daly, James
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dimsdale, Sir J. Cockfield
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Duffy, William J.
Duke, Henry Edward
Duncan, James H.
Dunn, Sir William
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elibank, Master of
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Sir Francis H (Maidstone
Faber, George Denison
Fardell, Sir T. George
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir R. Penrose-
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Garfit, William
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, Rt. Hn Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin&Nairn
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, South
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Graham, Henry Robert
Grant, Corrie
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hain, Edward
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'd'nderry
Hammond, John
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th
Harwood, George
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Heath, Arthur H. (Hanley)

Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hobhouse, Hy. (Somerset, E.)
Hogg, Lindsay
Holland, William Henry
Hope, J. Deans (Fife, West)
Horniman, Frederick John
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kenyon, Hn. G. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon, James (Lancs., Bury)
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Kinloch, Sir John Geo. Smyth
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lambton, Hon. Fredk. Wm.
Langley, Batty
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Lecky, Rt. Hn. Wm. Edw. H.
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lough, Thomas
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Lundon, W.
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Cann, James
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Markham, Arthur Basil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Mather, William
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)

Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants.)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Morley, Rt. Hn. John (Montrose
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Mount, William Arthur
Murphy, J.
Myers, William Henry
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Palmer, George Wm. (Reading)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, Sir Joseph W. (Durham)
Peel, Hn. Wm. Rbt. Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, John Wynford
Pilkington, Richard
Pirie, Duncan V.
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux

Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alex.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sandys,Lieut.-Col.Thos Myles
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson,RtHn.Col.Edw.J.
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shaw, Chas. Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw-Stewart,M.H.(Renfrew)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair,Capt.John (Forfarsh.)
Smith,HC(N'rth'mb.Tynes'de
Smith,JamesParker(Lanarks.)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spear, John Ward
Stanley,HnArthur (Ormskirk)
Stevenson, Francis S.
Stewart,SirMarkJ.M‘Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, SirJohn M.
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas,Alfred(Glamorgan,E.
Thomas,DavidAlfred(Merthyr
Thomas,F.Freeman-(Hastings
Thomas,JA(Glamorgan,Gow'r
Thompson,E.C.(Monaghan,N.
Thomson, F. W.(York, W.R.)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wallace, Robert
Walrond,RtHn.SirWilliamH.
Walton,JohnLawson(Leeds,S.
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas CourtenayT.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason,Eugene(Clackmannan
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkney
Weir, James Galloway
Welby,SirCharlesG.E(Notts.)
Wharton,Rt.Hon. John Lloyd
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams,Osmond(Merioneth)
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. Stanley(York,E.R.
Wilson,Fred.W(Norfolk,Mid.
Wilson, Henry J. (York,W. R.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson,J.W(Worcestersh.N.)
Wodehouse,Hn.Armine(Essex
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Woodhouse,SirJT(Huddersf'd
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Crombie and Mr. Tritton.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,Capt SirAlex.F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Allsopp, Hon. George
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barry, Sir Francis T.(Windsor
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst,Hon.AllenBenjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Boyle, James
Bull, William James
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Colston, Charles E. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Crean, Eugene
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dewar,T.R(T'rH'mlets,S.Geo
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Farrell, James Patrick
Fergusson,RtHn.SirJ.(Manc'r
Gibbs,HnA.G.H.(CityofLond.
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene,SirEW(B'rySEdm'nds
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Howard,Capt.J.(K'nt,Faversh
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W.(Salop)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Lowther, Rt. Hon. J. (Kent)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, R. J. (Portsmouth)
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W. G. E.
M‘Fadden, Edward
M‘Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Majendie, James A. H.
Morrison, James Archibald
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, J. (Roscommon, N.)
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Pierpoint, Robert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone,W.)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
Wortley,Rt.Hon.C. B. Stuart-
Young, Commander(Berks,E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Major Jameson and Mr. Tully.

Main Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for to-morrow.

NEW BILLS.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Bill to amend the Law relating to Weights and Measures, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Bousfield, Mr. Parkes, Mr. Kearley, and Sir Fortescue Flannery.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to Weights and Measures," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 17th April, and to be printed. [Bill 109.]

OLD AGE PENSIONS (No. 5).

Bill to make provision for Old Age Pensions, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Bousfield, Mr. Strutt, Mr. J. W. Wilson, and Mr. Laurence Hardy.

OLD AGE PENSIONS (No. 5) BILL.

"To make provision for Old Age Pensions," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 17th April, and to be printed. [Bill 110.]

Adjourned at a quarter before Six of the clock.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 21st March, 1901.

TOOK THE OATH.

The Lord Bishop of Oxford took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with :—Worcester Tramways.

The same was ordered to lie on the Table.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

Report from, That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Watford and District Tramways Bill [H.L.] ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed, provided that Tramway No. 7 and such parts of Tramways Nos. 1 and 11 as are within the district of the Watford Rural District Council be struck out of the Bill.

Read, and agreed to.

LONDON (CITY) SCHOOL FOR ORPHANS OF FREEMEN BILL [H.L.].

LOWESTOFT CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

Reports of His Majesty's Attorney General received, and ordered to lie on the Table.

KING'S NORTON AND NORTHFIELD URBAN DISTRICT TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.].

AIRE AND CALDER NAVIGATION BILL [H.L.].

BOURNEMOUTH CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee adjourned this day at Two o'clock; and pray leave not to sit again till Monday next; read, and leave given.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL BILL [H.L.].

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN RAILWAY BILL [H.L.]

Committed; The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL (LONDON) BILL [H.L.].

LEEDS CHURCHES BILL [H.L.].

Committed.

BETHLEM HOSPITAL BILL [H.L.].

BRIDEWELL HOSPITAL BILL [H.L.].

LOWESTOFT CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

LONDON (CITY) SCHOOL FOR ORPHANS OF FREEMEN BILL [H.L.].

Read 2^a (according to order).

LLANELLY AND MYNYDD MAWR RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

Report from the Select Committee, That the promoters do not intend to proceed further with the Bill. Ordered that the Bill be not further proceeded with.

HANDSWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL [H.L.].

Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn; read, and ordered to lie on the Table. The orders made on the 8th March and Friday last discharged; and Bill committed.

LLANELLY HARBOUR BILL [H.L.].

Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn; read, and ordered to lie on the Table. The orders made on the 8th March and Friday last discharged; and Bill committed.

ASPATRIA, SILLOTH, AND DISTRICT WATER BILL [H.L.].

Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn; read, and ordered to lie on the

Table. The orders made on the 8th March and Friday last discharged; and Bill committed forthwith.

PRIVATE AND PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION BILLS.

Ordered, That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Thursday, the 27th day of June next; That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill originating in this House shall be read a first time after Thursday, the 9th day of May next; That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Thursday, the 27th day of June next; That when a Bill shall have passed this House with Amendment these orders shall not apply to any new Bill sent up from the House of Commons which the Chairman of Committees shall report to the House is substantially the same as the Bill so amended; That this House will not receive any petition for a Private Bill later than Thursday, the 9th day of May next, unless such Private Bill shall have been approved by the High Court of Justice; nor any petition for a Private Bill approved by the High Court of Justice after Friday, the 17th day of May next; That this House will not receive any report from the Judges upon petitions presented to this House for Private Bills after Friday, the 17th day of May next.

Ordered, That the said orders be printed and published, and affixed on the doors of this House and Westminster Hall. (No. 24.)

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ARMY.

I. (Royal Military Academy, Woolwich)—Report of the Board of Visitors for 1900.

II. (Royal Military College, Sandhurst)—Report of the Board of Visitors for 1900.

III. Finding of a Court of Inquiry, held at Barberton on 25th September, 1900, to investigate the circumstances under which Lieutenant-Colonel B. E. Spragge, D.S.O., 13th Battalion Imperial Yeomanry, and others, became prisoners of war.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

No. 2562. France (Havre).
No. 2563. Italy (Ancona).
No. 2564. Japan (Hiogo and Osaka).

Presented (by command) and ordered to lie on the Table.

NATIONAL DEBT (ANNUITIES).

Account of the gross amount of all bank annuities and any annuities for terms of years transferred, and of all sums of money paid to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt; and the gross amount of annuities for lives and for terms of years which have been granted for the same, and contracts for payments on death, which have been made within the year ended 5th January, 1901; laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie upon the Table.

SCOTTISH PRIVATE BILL LEGISLATION—LOCAL INQUIRIES.

THE EARL OF GLASGOW: My Lords, I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland a question of which I have given him private notice, namely, whether it is the case that the meeting of the Commissioners under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, fixed for the 22nd instant, is to be held in Edinburgh; whether it is the case that three Provisional Orders referred to the Commissioners relate to localities in the West of Scotland; whether the actual inquiry in this case is to take place in Edinburgh or in the localities; and whether, under Section 6 of the Act, it does not rest with the Commissioners themselves to fix the place of inquiry. These are rather important questions for those who are interested in Private Bill procedure in Scotland. This is the first meeting which the Commissioners hold under the Act, and it is therefore important that the procedure should be in all respects such as may form a good precedent for the future. The holding of the inquiry in Edinburgh for those Bills which concern the West of Scotland appears to be rather an unfortunate mode of procedure, because it would seem to indicate that it is the intention in future to hold all inquiries in Edinburgh. If that is the case, it really means that we do not have the advantage of the Parliamentary counsel in London, but have to take Parliamentary counsel in Edinburgh. The intention of the Act was that the inquiry should be held as near the parts concerned as possible. Without saying a word against the excellence of the Parliamentary Bar in Scotland—if there is a Parliamentary Bar—I would point out that in Aberdeen, Glasgow, and other towns in Scotland, there is plenty of legal ability and forensic power, and lawyers in those parts of the country might easily take up the cases in which those parts are interested. That, I submit, is the intention of the Act, and I hope the Secretary for Scotland will be able to state that it is not intended that all future inquiries shall be held in Edinburgh. If that is the intention it will be necessary to amend the Act. Section 6 of the Act lays down that, subject to a General Order, the Commissioners shall hold the inquiry at such place in Scotland as they may determine, with due regard to the subject-matter of the proposed Order, and the locality to which it relates. An inquiry in Edinburgh in the case of these Bills affecting the West of Scotland would not be held in a place with due regard to the subject-matter of the proposed Order and the locality to which it relates.

*THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH): My Lords, I have to thank the noble Lord for his courtesy in giving me notice yesterday of his intention to put this question. It is the case, as stated by him, that under the Act passed the year before last, it does rest with the Commissioners to fix the place at which the inquiries are to be held. The circumstances under which Edinburgh was fixed for the first inquiry are as follows: The panel of Lords available was only secured on the 12th of the present month, and it was found impossible to get the requisite four Commissioners from the Members of the two Houses by the 14th instant. If we had delayed beyond the 14th, there would not have been time to have the inquiry before the natural Easter recess. Under those circumstances, and keeping in view the importance of holding the inquiry into a group of Orders before Easter, and to the requirement contained in the General Orders that seven clear days notice of the time and place of the inquiry must be given, I thought it undesirable to delay the announcement of the place of meeting. I therefore consulted the noble Lord who I knew would be, in all probability, and has been since, appointed Chairman of the Commission, as to the place that would be most convenient. Four out of the seven Orders which are in the list of those set down for inquiry in Edinburgh come from places for which Edinburgh is certainly the most convenient place of meeting. There are three others—one relating to Hamilton, one to Ayr, and one to Ardrossan—included in the group; but we knew that the opposition to the Hamilton Order was about to be withdrawn, and we only included that *pro forma* in case the opposition was not withdrawn. Since that time the opposition has been withdrawn, and it will go on as an unopposed Order. With regard to the other two Bills, we did what we could to consult the promoters. In the case of the Ayr Bill, the promoters preferred Edinburgh to Ayr, Glasgow, or any other place, and neither in that case nor in the case of the Ardrossan inquiry, have I received any intimation that the parties concerned would have preferred that the inquiry should be held in any other place.

It is not my intention to guide the Commissioners, who may hereafter be appointed, in the direction of fixing Edinburgh as in all cases the place of inquiry. I think it most probable that the next inquiry will take place in Glasgow; but, of course, that is not yet decided, and cannot be decided until the Commissioners are appointed. I can only say, generally, that in all future cases, when the system which has just been inaugurated is in working order, it would be right and proper that the parties concerned should indicate to my Department any views they may have as to where the inquiry should be held, and I would pass them on. It is not our intention to concentrate the inquiries in Edinburgh; but in the case to which the noble Lord has referred, owing to pressure of time we thought it on all grounds less undesirable that the inquiry should be at once appointed for Edinburgh than that it should be postponed until after the Easter recess. I hope my answer will be satisfactory to the noble Earl, and I can assure him that I am anxious to do the best I can for all parties.

EARLY CLOSING OF SHOPS.

The evidence taken before the Select Committee from time to time to be printed for the use of the Members of this House; but no copies thereof to be delivered except to members of the Committee until further order.

NEW BILLS.

POLLING ARRANGEMENTS (PARLIAMENTARY BOROUGHS) BILL [H.L.].

A Bill to amend the law relating to the arrangement of polling districts in Parliamentary boroughs. (No. 22.)

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY COUNCILS) BILL [H.L.].

A Bill to make further provision with respect to the arrangement of polling districts for the election of county councillors. (No. 23.)

Presented by the Lord Ribblesdale; read 1^a; to be printed, and to be read 2^a on Tuesday next.

CHINA—ANGLO-RUSSIAN DISPUTE AT TIENTSIN.

EARL SPENCER: I wish to ask the noble Marquess the Secretary for Foreign Affairs a question of which I have given him private notice—namely, whether he has any information he can give the House as to the incident at Tientsin, in which the public are much interested.

*__THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS__ (The Marquess of LANSDOWNE): I shall be very glad to give the noble Earl whatever information I have in my possession. The House will recollect that this dispute has reference to a somewhat extensive area on the left bank of the Pei-ho River, which in the autumn of last year was occupied by Russian troops and claimed by them as belonging to them by right of conquest. We were subsequently informed that an agreement had been entered into between the Chinese Government and the Russian military authorities, through the medium of Li Hung Chang, by which this area was to pass under Russian occupation. The area in question comprises several plots of land which are held to belong to the Northern Chinese Railway Administration, and which therefore form part of the security of the British bondholders who are interested in these railways. The line at Tientsin forms part of the railway which was originally occupied by Russian troops, but of which a portion was lately transferred by the Russian military authorities to Count von Waldersee, who again transferred it to the British military authorities. Since that transfer it has been worked by them, aided by the staff of the railway.

It appears that it was necessary for the convenience of the allied forces that a railway siding should be constructed on one of the reserved plots to which I have referred, and we learn that the presence of the British working parties on that plot was treated by the Russian military authority as a trespass upon Russian territory. It was subsequently alleged that Russian boundary marks had been removed by our soldiers, and an affront consequently offered to the Russian flag. In the circumstances we telegraphed on the 16th instant to the authorities in China that in our opinion the right of British and Russian troops to occupy certain disputed points was a question which could most appropriately be disposed of by Field-Marshal von Waldersee, the Commander-in-Chief of the allied forces; and we instructed General Gaselee to invite the Field Marshal to settle the immediate difference which had arisen between the Russian and British military authorities, reserving for future examination all questions concerning the validity of the concession itself and of alleged private rights within its limits. That was on the 16th, and we instructed General Gaselee that in the meanwhile he should avoid using force except for the purpose of repelling aggression.

On the 20th, the alleged removal of the Russian boundary pillar having meanwhile occurred, we again telegraphed to our representative at Peking, instructing him that as it was alleged that British troops had encroached upon Russian territory and removed Russian boundary marks, and as there was a dispute as to the facts, we were ready to refer those facts to Count von Waldersee, or, indeed, to any court which Count von Waldersee desired to appoint for the purpose, on the understanding that if either side had been found to have committed an irregularity that side should offer suitable apology to the other. We added that, in our opinion, the construction of the siding, which we believed to be a matter of some importance to the allied forces, should continue, but under whatever conditions Count von Waldersee might think fit to impose. My Lords, I am glad to say that we have heard this morning from our Ambassador at St. Petersburg that Count Lamsdorff had mentioned the matter to him and desired our Ambassador to propose immediately to His Majesty's Government that we should agree to reserve all questions of title and proprietary rights for examination between the two Governments, and that meanwhile we should at once send orders for the withdrawal on both sides of the troops at the disputed point so as to avoid the risk of accidents.

Count Lamsdorff went on to say that the Russian Minister of War would telegraph specific instructions in this sense if His Majesty's Government would agree to the proposal, and he ended by expressing in very moderate and statesmanlike terms his desire to avoid any cause of friction between the two Governments. I need not say that we at once telegraphed expressing our entire concurrence in the views] Count Lamsdorff had expressed, the more so because those views were entirely in accord with the policy we had indicated in the telegrams, the substance of which I have just read to your Lordships. We accordingly sent to our military authorities instructions to carry out a simultaneous withdrawal from the disputed points. We added that we thought that it might be desirable that that withdrawal should be carried out to the satisfaction of Count von Waldersee, so that there might be no room for, or risk of, misunderstanding on matters of detail. I hope the effect of the correspondence I have indicated goes to show that the incident is virtually at an end, and that what really was a very small matter of strictly local importance will not be allowed to disturb the relations between the two countries.

INTOXICATING LIQUOR (SALE TO TRAVELLERS) BILL [H.L.].

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER: My Lords, I feel that perhaps some apology is due to your Lordships for intruding upon you with a request, a third time within eight days, that a Second Reading should be given to a Bill dealing with the liquor licensing laws. But, on the other hand, I think that anyone who is observant of the signs of the times, and especially of the signs of the times in both Houses of Parliament, will feel that there is a general desire at this moment that matters of this sort should be dealt with, and, further, a sense that if the Government does not take them up and make itself responsible for dealing with them, they can be best dealt with in a series of small Bills rather than by attempting a large consolidating measure. The Bill to which I am now asking your Lordships to give a Second Reading aims at combating one specific evil, and one specific evil only. I hope it is not open in any way to the criticism which the noble Marquess at the head of the Government brought the other night against some legislation proposed in this matter—namely, that it is apt, in trying to punish the guilty, to give undue inconvenience or hurt to the innocent. The speech of the noble Marquess last Thursday† was full of interest and suggestiveness to those who are engaged in endeavours of this kind. I do not desire now to discuss the principles which were then laid down as to the manner in which legislation on all these questions ought to proceed, because I hope that this Bill lies altogether outside the range of the noble Marquess's criticism on that occasion. Barely and bluntly stated, the noble Marquess appeared to object to almost all preventive legislation, as contrasted with punitive legislation. I am quite sure the noble Marquess had no intention of making sosweeping a generalisation as that, and I am very certain that in his long Parliamentary experience he has many and many a time given votes in favour of measures which have inflicted very real harm on innocent people for the time in view of the larger interests involved, and of the greater gain that would ultimately be arrived at.

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† See preceding volume of *Debates*, page 1511.

I now pass to the Bill before your Lordships. Perhaps for a moment I may remind the House of what the existing law is on this matter. Throughout England and Wales there is virtually a large measure of Sunday closing obligatory upon licensed houses. The law, as your Lordships are aware, is that public-houses are to be closed on Sunday, with the exception that in London they may be open from one o'clock till three p.m., and from six to eleven p.m., and in the country from 12.30 to 2.30 p.m., and from six to ten p.m. Except for that, they are at this moment closed by law, and I am not aware that any appreciable body of opinion exists in favour of a relaxation of that measure of closing which is now enforced. When Parliament enacted that public-houses should be closed to that extent, it was quite obvious that some provision had to be made to meet what might be the legitimate needs of persons travelling, either by road or rail, or otherwise. Therefore, in the Acts of 1872 and 1874 it is provided specifically, not that a traveller, but—mark the phrase—a *bona fide* traveller, shall be provided with refreshment if he is more than three miles from home and applies for it, or if he applies for it at a railway station when starting by train or arriving. It is of some importance to notice the actual words. The Act of 1874 provides that its provisions "shall not preclude a licensee from selling liquor at any time to *bona fide* travellers"—who are defined as having lodged three miles from the place of sale—nor shall they "preclude the sale at any time at a railway station of intoxicating liquors to persons arriving at or departing from such station by railroad."

The intention of those clauses is obvious, and it seems to me most excellent; but what I hope to show is that the provisions laid down as to the legitimate relief of *bona fide* travellers are at this moment being grossly abused, and that the enactments Parliament has made are being flouted every Sunday by those who are taking advantage of provisions enacted for quite a different purpose. The evidence to that effect comes from literally every part of England and Wales, and it is absolutely accurate to say that both parties on the Royal Commission, and I think every member of the Royal Commission, recommended that some definite change should be made for meeting that specific evil. There is a mistake, for which I am bound to apologise to the House, in the Memorandum I prefixed to the Bill as explanatory of its provisions. I inadvertently quoted, as my authority for saying that the Majority Report recommended such a change, a paragraph which refers only to Ireland; but it does not matter in the least degree, because a similar paragraph, which refers to England, goes not only as far, but even further. I will read it—

> "We do not think it necessary to maintain the right of the *bona fide* traveller to be served during prohibited hours, but the needs of genuine excursionists cannot be entirely left out of sight. We consider that a limited number of licensed premises, where travellers may be served at specified hours, should be selected by the licensing authority, and that a special licence duty should be exacted in respect of this privilege. The statutory distance might be extended to six miles."

These are the words of the majority of the Royal Commissioners, and you would expect, I think, inasmuch as that majority included some members who sat with the avowed object of protecting the interests of the trade, and particularly the interests of the retail trade, and that two of their members—Mr. Hyslop and Mr. Walker—signed a large number of reservations in regard to many of the recommendations of the Report, to find this recommendation objected to by them. But we do not find such to be the case. The "reservation" runs as follows—

> "In numerous localities, in which the resident population is but small, there are special circumstances connected with the habits of persons travelling, and so forth, which would render the shortening of the hours of opening on Sundays a source of the greatest inconvenience and irritation."

We do not in this Bill, except in the most indirect way, suggest any shortening of the hours of opening; we suggest provisions respecting the hours when public-houses are closed to other people, but open to the *bona fide* traveller. The practical unanimity of the Royal Commission on that point is really not wonderful, as the evidence before the Commission was overwhelming. I would ask your Lordships to notice two things—what it is that is happening at this moment, and, next, what we propose to do. What at this moment does happen? The law is meant to provide for the necessities of those who, from business or pleasure, are travelling on Sundays, but, as a fact, instead of people getting drink because they are travelling, they travel, if you can use the word, to get drink; in other words, they travel in order to evade the law which would otherwise press upon them. That seems to me a travesty and a mockery of the provisions which were laid down by Parliament for the comfort and convenience of those who might be travelling on Sundays. The difficulty in giving instances of the evil, as explained by the witnesses before the Royal Commission, is really to choose from among the witnesses. They are so numerous, and come from every part of the country with such a uniform tale as to the difficulties which arise, that the task before one is not to find evidence, but to make selections from it. I will refer to a few examples, purposely chosen from different parts of England. I would ask your Lordships to read, for example, the evidence of Colonel Moorsom, chief constable of Manchester, who describes the system of what is known as "three-mile houses" and the mischief they do. I turn to the south of England. A solicitor in Brighton, who has acted for the county police for ten years, and for the county council for the eastern division of the county, and who has had large experience in licensing matters, said—

> "I think I should abolish the *bona fide* traveller. I think the law at present operates most undesirably. A great many of those persons who are served as *bona fide* travellers are in no sense of the term *bona fide* travellers, but merely loafing about for the purpose of getting Sunday drinks, and I think they are a nuisance to the licensees and to the neighbourhood. There are a great many of the better class (licensees) who would be very desirous of seeing him abolished. I have certainly heard that opinion expressed by several of them."

To go to another part of England, I will quote the opinion of Mr. Charles Roundell, who not only has had experience as a Cheshire magistrate and as a member of the House of Commons, but who was specially selected as Chairman of the Committee of the Magistrates of Cheshire appointed to consider this particular subject. He said—

> "For the three-miles limit I would substitute a six-miles limit, but I would go further still, and I would abolish the *bona fide* traveller. I believe him to be a fraud, and simply a pretence for getting drink. It is a most serious public evil."

I now go to Yorkshire. Mr. John Thornton, clerk to the justices of Leeds, said—

> "The distance of three miles seems to me to be quite inadequate to meet the case. Persons go from one part of the town to another simply to make use of these houses."

Mr. William Beilby, superintendent of police, West Riding, Yorkshire, said—

> "I instructed a sergeant and some constables to visit five licensed houses and one beer-house in a village about three miles from Sheffield, and they took over fifty names one Sunday, not one of whom we were able to trace afterwards. They were all persons resident in Sheffield. On a subsequent Sunday, in the same houses, the police found one hundred and eleven persons drinking. They all alleged they were *bona fide* travellers, but on being asked by the police what their business was, the universal reply was that they had gone to get a drink."

Mr. Beilby stated that the same state of things existed in other places from his experience. He added—

> "In Bradford men would enter a public-house at 12.30 and drink during the legal opening hours till 2.30, would catch a train at 3.8 p.m. to Shipley, just three miles away, and drink there till 6 p.m.; and then catch the 6 p.m. train back to Bradford. In many instances, to my own knowledge, men have drank from 12.30 till closing time, 10 p.m."

That is the evidence of a superintendent of police in Yorkshire. Mr. Beilby added that the *bona fide* traveller was the cause of much disorder in the streets in the evening. To come nearer home, I will quote from the evidence of Superintendent Lucas, of the Clapham Division of the Metropolitan Police. He said—

> "A number of persons in my district call themselves *bona fide* travellers, but they are really men who go out on the tram or 'bus on Sunday morning for the purpose of getting drink. They travel the limit of three miles, and, of course, have a right to be served."

I hope your Lordships will notice that all this is evidence, not of those who could be described as temperance enthusiasts, but of officials who are bound to look into the matter from a public point of view. If these people were genuine excursionists I for one should wish in every possible way to meet their reasonable requirements. It is not with the least desire of enacting a sweeping measure of closing public-houses on Sunday that I am advocating this Bill, but I ask anyone that reads that evidence—I have only taken specimens which could be multiplied *ad libitum*—to say whether these are the people who were contemplated when the provisions were made to meet the requirements of the *bona fide* traveller. One gentleman, who gave evidence from Leytonstone, Essex, said—

> "I question whether the *bona fide* traveller exists. Speaking from our standpoint, he is not a *bona fide* traveller. I think it would puzzle anybody—the publicans themselves admit it to me—to find in our district on Sunday a *bona fide* traveller in the sense in which I think the Act meant it."

I need not labour the point, because the evidence is clear that in the opinion of the witnesses the evil is a real one, and one that requires some drastic remedy.

With regard to railway refreshment rooms, the law, as I have mentioned, is that a man can be served if arriving or departing by train. But the way in which this is worked is that a penny ticket is taken by a large number of people, who immediately call for drink on the ground that they are, or mean to be, travelling by railway, and in some cases they make a journey of a few miles and at each end of the journey call upon those in charge of the refreshment room to provide them with such refreshment as they want, because, forsooth! they are *bona fide* travellers.

Such, my Lords, are the facts. What do we propose? Not what these witnesses whom I have quoted ask for—the abolition of the *bona fide* traveller; not even what the Minority Report ask for. I simply ask that, in accordance with the recommendation in the Majority Report, we should increase the distance from three miles to six miles, and—although the distance is not specified in the Report of the Royal Commission—that every railway traveller should travel twenty-five miles before he is entitled to claim to be served with refreshments as a *bona fide* traveller. We further propose that in each district the licensing authority should have power—again in accordance with the Majority Report—to select certain houses which should, on payment of an addition to their licensing fee, be specially licensed to serve the *bona fide* traveller. That is what the trade members of the Royal Commission themselves voted for, and it seems obvious that there cannot be any great hardship inflicted on the trade if effect is given to this recommendation. Will it, then, my Lords, inflict any hardship on the genuine excursionist? After much searching in the many volumes I cannot find any evidence in support of the contention that inconvenience will be caused on that side. There are those who say they do not see the need of such a change, but no specific inconvenience which would be caused is pointed out. There was one witness on behalf of the trade to whose evidence I ought, perhaps, in fairness to call attention. Mr. C. Deakin, a licensed victualler, who occupies many official posts in connection with licensed victuallers' associations, was evidently impressed by the dishonesty of the present system. He said—

> "I think the words '*bona fide*' should be taken out of the Act, and the word 'traveller' only should be used; that any person who has travelled three miles should be entitled to refreshment if he requires it. No one can deny that they are, at all events, travellers."

That is clear, but we should not be in any way furthering the desire of Parliament if we followed this advice. Mr. Deakin was asked—

> "If a man takes a twopenny tram and goes three miles, or takes a threepenny ticket and goes by train for the purpose of getting drink, is he thereby constituted a traveller?"

And the answer which the witness gave was—

> "Yes, I think a man who goes three miles should be called a traveller."

I would ask your Lordships to remember that those who thus travel find the public-houses wherever they go open from 12.30 to 2.30 in the day and from 6 to 10 at night, or in London from one to three and from six to eleven.

One witness after another said this ought to suffice absolutely for the legitimate needs of those who are travelling, and I fail to find any evidence on the other side. I feel most strongly that this provision of the Act of Parliament is being made a farce of, utterly twisted from its original intention, and flouted in the face of magistrates and other authorities throughout the land. That has an indirect as well as a direct harmful result. It does not merely result in the evil against which the Act was intended to provide. It leads to an attitude towards legislative enactments in these matters which seems to me distinctly pernicious, and one which we ought, if possible, to prevent. I am not asking your Lordships to legislate now upon new lines. I did so last Thursday, and the noble Marquess, the Prime Minister, told us we had not gone far enough.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of SALISBURY): But you were reasonable then.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER: I am glad the noble Marquess thinks we were reasonable. What we did then, reasonable or not, was to ask for something new, the provision of a black list, and I hope we may see that provision on the Statute Book before the session ends. We only ask to-night for such an enactment as will preserve the intention of the existing law. I am perfectly prepared if this measure goes into Committee, to accept amendments with regard to details. I do not profess to say that the details are not, in many of their words, challengeable. I have read the document circulated to your Lordships by the trade, and there are certain points in it which are worthy of consideration. We suggest that the justices should have absolute discretion, and that there should be no appeal from them; but if that provision were struck out I should not feel that the Bill was greatly harmed. The same remark would apply to the minimum of twenty-five miles distance by rail, and points of that kind. I am quite willing to accept Amendments on those points in Committee. But we do want this Bill in its essence and general drift. Not only is Parliament at this moment being literally put to despite, but the existing state of things is a source of incalculable harm.

Moved, that the Bill be now read 2^a. (*The Lord Bishop of Winchester.*)

LORD NORTON: My Lords, the right rev. Prelate boasts that he is proposing nothing new. I wish he was proposing something new. He has shown how futile the existing provision of the law is, and he proposes a provision which will be quite as much open to evasion. What we ought to do is not to place ingenious impediments in the way of people getting drunk, but to deal with drunkenness as a public nuisance. I agree with the right rev. Prelate that the country is most anxious at this moment to deal with this subject, that there is a feeling in the country that nothing could be more unsatisfactory than the existing state of the law; but I do not agree with him that the feeling of the country is that the law should not be consolidated on general principles.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER: I entirely agree with my noble friend. The feeling of the country is in favour of that, and in favour of it being done by His Majesty's Government.

*LORD NORTON: What the country wants is not piecemeal legislation and a patching up of the existing law. The right rev. Prelate began his speech by apologising for having introduced three Bills of this character in the course of the last fortnight. Only yesterday, in another place, there was a long debate upon a Bill to prevent the sale of liquor to children. The consequence of this patchwork legislation will be absolute confusion, so that nobody will know what the law is, and there will be reaction against the very object which you have in view. The right rev. Prelate instanced the working of the existing law with regard to *bona fide* travellers, and showed how not only evasion, but reaction is created. The law is not only evaded, but resistance is absolutely invited by such a provision. Moreover, it further complicates the compensation question. It is the abuse, and not the use, of drink which the Legislature ought to deal with, but the whole object of recent legislation seems to be to put down the use of liquor, and it is hoped in this way to arrive not at temperance, but at abstinence. I object to the phrase "intoxicating drinks," because liquors only become intoxicating when their use is abused. You might just as well call water a drowning fluid. Drink should be sold at proper times and places, as it is wanted.

Public-houses guilty of allowing drunkenness, rioting, or adulteration of drink should be punished by inflicting penalties appropriate to the offence, and by the severest penalty the law now enforces—namely, the forfeiture of licences—when these offences are repeated, which would shut up a number the present system has viciously multiplied. What the law should provide against is the illegitimate demand for drink, not legitimate use. There is no reason why public-houses, so checked by the law, should become dangerous places. In parts of the Report of the Royal Commission we were warned against familiarising people with public-houses, as if they were necessarily wicked places. There is no reason why public-houses, if legitimately conducted, should be anything more than ordinary refreshment rooms; and I would appeal to the noble Earl opposite, Lord Spencer, who himself is a publican to a very considerable extent, for he has public-houses in six parishes, of which he is entire owner, whether those public-houses are unfit places for a child to go to, or for any traveller to resort to at proper times. I protest against this patchwork legislation. The proposition of the right rev. Prelate is just as much open to objection as the law he seeks to amend; and, as the Government have more or less promised to deal with this question on a large scale, I hope he will see his way to postpone the Bill, or, if he wishes to keep it alive, hang it up, until the Government introduce this larger Bill for dealing in a comprehensive way with the subject.

LORD BELPER: My Lords, I think those of your Lordships who have read this Bill, or have listened to the speeches that have been already delivered upon it, will agree that it stands in a very different category to the two Bills which the right rev. Prelate introduced the other night, and which were read a second time by general assent. Those two Bills were accepted practically unanimously, while it is clear that this Bill raises very strong differences of opinion. I am not disposed to waste any arguments on the point to which the greater part of the right rev. Prelate's speech was directed — namely, the unsatisfactory character of the person who has been created by statute a *bona fide* traveller. No doubt, a certain number of people who take advantage of the Act are in no sense *bona fide* travellers; but how does the right rev. Prelate propose to deal with the matter? He proposes, in the first place, to extend the limit from three miles to six. I venture to think that he has not shown that in making this suggestion he is doing anything to meet the objections he has himself quoted. No doubt the man who goes six miles would be rather more a *bona fide* traveller than the man who goes three miles; but I would ask your Lordships to remember that since the *bona fide* traveller was created the methods of travelling have been greatly changed, and that now in the neighbourhood of all the large towns flocks of bicycles and motor-cars are to be seen on Sundays skimming along at between twelve and fourteen miles an hour, and I cannot see how it can be said logically that six miles is the proper limit. The fact is, you are begging the question entirely by fixing a six-miles limit. If you wish to deal with this on any principle which can be a permanent solution, you must look further than to an alteration of the limit from three miles to six miles. I agree that the Bill differentiates between different methods of travelling. The Bill proposes that no one who is travelling less than twenty-five miles by rail shall be served during prohibited hours. I would venture to ask on what principle is that suggested, when a man who rides a bicycle or in a motor-car is left practically where he was before?

The Government do not feel that they would be justified in giving their assent to a measure which alters the law upon this small point, unless that alteration is likely to prove a satisfactory and permanent solution, and this solution certainly will not prove so. With regard to the railway clause, providing that a man must travel twenty-five miles before he can get refreshments, I would ask, How is it to be enforced? Who is going to enforce it? Are there to be detectives on each railway station to find out whether a man asking for a drink has travelled twenty-five miles? or are the ladies in charge of the refreshment rooms to add to their other qualifications the art of cross-examining travellers on the subject, or to judge themselves how far a man has travelled, or is about to travel? A clause of this sort is open at once to the objection that it will be constantly evaded. A man may walk five miles by road to the station, and then travel twenty miles by train, but in neither case would he be able to get a drink, although he may have been much longer on his journey than the man who had travelled twenty-five miles by train. He would be liable to a penalty of five pounds if he asked for a drink at the railway station, but, under this Bill, he might go into the neighbouring hotel—which is very often practically the same establishment, the railway bar being connected with it—and there obtain the refreshment, because he is six miles from home, and the law could not touch him. However desirable it is to make some alteration in the law with regard to railway stations, you will not achieve your object by this Bill. I was surprised to find it stated in the Memorandum of the Bill that this clause is intended to give effect to the recommendations of the Majority and Minority Reports of the Royal Commission. If that is so, I can only say that the intention is not carried out by the provisions of the Bill. To take this particular proposal, the Majority Report said nothing about a limit of twenty-five miles, and the Minority Report, while admitting the evil, made proposals entirely different from those in the present Bill. The Minority Report said that railway companies should be required to draw up regulations for the approval of the Board of Trade, and that these should include precautions against the indiscriminate sale of intoxicating liquors at their railway stations; and I would say that, knowing something about the management of railways, I should have much more confidence in such regulations than in the present haphazard proposals.

There is one other important point. The Bill proposes to give absolute power and discretion to the licensing authorities, not only to select what houses in their districts should be opened to *bona fide* travellers, and to prevent all the other houses being open to *bona fide* travellers at all, but to arrange the hours during which these houses should be opened, the conditions on which they should be opened, and a number of other things which the clause specifically refers to, and, as the Bill is drawn, all this without any power of appeal. I notice that the right rev. Prelate has already thrown over the provision which does not allow power of appeal. He has expressed himself as willing to accept alterations and modifications in the measure, but what I would point out is, that this is an entirely novel proposal. It proposes not only to grant local option, but to give the licensing authorities absolute discretion, without specifying any principles upon which they are to act, or compelling them to give any reasons for the course which they propose to follow. There is also this difficulty with regard to opening only certain houses for a certain time for the purpose of being used by travellers. How on earth is a traveller who comes from a neighbouring county to know what the houses are which have been selected to be kept open by the licensing authority, and what the hours are? I find in the Majority Report special mention of the inconvenience which would arise if the hours of opening and closing are left to the discretion of the licensing authorities. They say—

> "Many temperance reformers advocate that the question of hours should be placed within the discretion of the licensing authority, but it would lead to public inconvenience if the regulations as to hours of closing should vary according to the views of each licensing authority, in some cases exercising their powers in small areas."

I am well aware that that refers to the general hours of opening and closing, but if that is true with regard to general hours, it is still more true with regard to the particular class of houses under discussion. On the whole, dealing with the general provisions of the Bill, I am instructed to say that the Government do not see their way to support the Second Reading of the Bill. Although they admit there are evils, which have been pointed out by the Commission and by the right rev. Prelate, they do not believe that this Bill deals with those evils in a way which is likely to be a practical or permanent solution of the question. It is very difficult to draw the line. It may be that the law as it at present stands does not draw it exactly at the right place, but the Government deprecate peddling with these small questions unless they are perfectly satisfied that the proposals are likely to be satisfactory, and are able or likely to be enforced without giving rise to evasion and dissatisfaction.

THE EARL OF ABERDEEN: My Lords, I have no doubt your Lordships listened with every attention to the speech of the noble Lord who has just sat down. When he stated that the Government recognise that there are anomalies and objections in regard to the administration of this portion of the licensing laws I thought that possibly he would go on to say that, recognising that fact, His Majesty's Government contemplated bringing in a measure dealing with the question, because they did not think the present measure adequate. But we had no such indication, and I cannot help feeling that the statement made by the Government will be received with much disappointment throughout the country, for, as the right rev. Prelate remarked, the whole question has occupied great attention. There is expectation that something must shortly be done. The fact that the right rev. Prelate stated that he was prepared to assent to modifications in some parts of the Bill ought not to be regarded as a sign of want of earnestness or conviction on his part, but simply as a recognition of the great difficulties attached to any legislation at all on this subject.

In the absence of any large and comprehensive measure, it is only reasonable that an attempt should be made to deal with the question, if only in detail. I fail to see how the Bill will affect the riders and drivers of cycles and motor-cars, because the extension will not touch them in the least. Sixty miles would not deter them. The object of the Bill is that if we cannot altogether secure a *bona fide* traveller, we can, at any rate, secure one more so than at present. I am aware that representations rather deprecating the main provisions of the Bill have been made by the trade, and I fully admit that a good deal is to be said on behalf of those engaged in the sale of liquor. In any case, those persons have a very short Sunday, and it seems hard that their few hours of leisure should be invaded by sham and bogus travellers. I trust that the Bill will receive the support of many of your Lordships. It is certainly supported by many in the country, who feel that, if we cannot get a large measure of legislation, something is better than nothing.

*THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: My Lords, I venture to submit that the argument which was addressed to the House by my noble friend Lord Belper is not one which ought to influence your Lordships to reject this Bill. What was the case which the right rev. Prelate made? He showed that the *bona fide* traveller was an undoubted evil, to deal with which something must be done, and he said there were two ways of dealing with the evil. Either you might abolish the *bona fide* traveller, or else introduce some legislation of this kind which would extend the distances which at present define and constitute a *bona fide* traveller. How did the noble Lord who spoke for the Government meet that? He began by saying he would not enter into the character of the *bona fide* traveller. He was most wise in that decision. Indeed, I think the noble Lord rather hinted that he was aware that the *bona fide* traveller was by no means a traveller *bona fide*. And then he went on to ask what this Bill amounted to, and stated that to increase the distance from three to six miles was only a peddling proposal. I think there are many people who would infinitely prefer to walk three than six miles, and I think that the provision to extend the distance both by road and rail will have a wholesome effect.

I was struck by the observation of my noble friend Lord Belper that this measure does not contain any provisions which are likely to bring about a permanent solution of the question. At all events, it does something. Are the Government prepared to bring in a Bill which will do more, which will abolish the *bona fide* traveller? because, if so, I am sure that the friends of this Bill will be only too glad to support such a measure when they see it. It is all very well to talk about legislating on this temperance question in a piecemeal manner. I submit that there is no other way of dealing with it. If you bring in a large measure the opponents of one clause add their forces to the opponents of another, and the very length of the Bill contributes to its defeat. It is impossible, consequently, that any Bill which embraces all the subjects relating to the temperance question, of which so many, as we know, are contentious, can pass into law. The objections which Lord Belper took to this Bill seem to me to be objections for Committee. I am sure I for one would be perfectly ready to accept regulations drawn up by my noble friend. I do not know anyone more likely to draw up sensible regulations; but that difficulty is one which we can discuss and deal with in Committee; and if the railway companies are ready to draw up these regulations I think it is very likely that the right rev. Prelate would be prepared to accept any reasonable proposal that might be made in that direction. We want to do something in this matter. There is a strong feeling throughout the country on these questions, and if we cannot solve them all at one time—I for one do not believe we can—let us, at all events, solve some of them, and this is essentially one branch of the problem with which your Lordships might be easily able to deal.

THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY: My Lords, I think that in the course of this debate it has not been sufficiently borne in mind that the *bona fide* traveller does not exist except on Sundays, and that even on Sundays he can always obtain refreshments during the hours when the public-houses are ordinarily open. We have not yet closed the public-houses all through the day, and this provision only applies to the intervals between. If a traveller cannot wait during those intervals, he must really be so fond of his liquor that he is not far from being the sort of person who ought to be checked. Very often, in addition to the mischief he does by disturbing the more sober inhabitants—not at all an uncommon thing—he desecrates the Sabbath. Why should we have any difference between Sundays and week days in this matter? Why have we any legislation at all by which the public-houses are prevented from being open all the day long? Why is it that there is interference by the supreme authority of the nation with the way in which people are to gratify their wants, or their fancied wants, if there is no reason why we should interfere with them? The reason why public-houses are closed at all on Sundays, except within definite hours, is clear enough. It is part of the same legislation which endeavours to provide that the Day of Rest shall indeed be a day of rest, and shall not be desecrated, as it very often is, so far as we can prevent it.

The drink evil interferes very much with that observance of Sunday which is an important part of the habit of this country. I think we should find that it would be a very serious evil to the whole nation if the general respect for the Sunday were to be broken down, and there is nothing which breaks it down more effectually than to have drinking bouts here and there and people arriving home from some excursion or journey in a tipsy state, and who, in the presence of all their neighbours, flout the proper feeling with which Sunday is regarded This feeling ought not to be flouted simply because some people cannot wait a little longer till the public-houses are opened. That the evil is considerable we have very strong evidence, and that the present law, whilst professing to restrain it, does not really restrain it as it should be restrained, is equally clear. This is a small Bill, no doubt, but it professes to make some improvement in the working of the existing law, and that it will make some improvement I do not think there can be any question at all. The Bill may be open to considerable modifications, and those who support the Bill, as I do myself, will be quite willing to assent to such modifications if they are proposed in Committee. All the objections I have heard against the Bill are really objections that ought to be dealt with in Committee, and not on the Second Reading. If it could be said that the Bill could not effect any improvement, there would be a legitimate cause for voting against it; but I venture to say it will effect a very real improvement, and I trust your Lordships will not lightly cast it aside.

right rev. Prelate will enter into the question in rather a broader and more philosophic spirit, especially if he will banish that secret lurking desire which impels so many who support this Bill to come forward—namely, the lurking desire to prevent the consumption of alcoholic liquor—if he and they will confine their efforts to the prevention of drunkenness, I do not think there will be any insuperable difficulty in dealing with a question of this kind. You ask me to promise to deal with this question. Look across the hall, and I ask you whether it is any good promising a measure of this kind. There are many measures which must attract the attention of His Majesty's Government before they can deal with a measure of this kind. The impediments, which I need not dwell on, are far too great at present. I merely make these observations that you should not say that I abandon all hope of dealing with these difficulties hereafter. I think that they will be dealt with, but they can only be dealt with by people who are single-hearted in the effort to stop drunkenness, and who do not mix it with the further desire to exterminate a perfectly legitimate indulgence.

Earl SPENCER: My Lords, we on this bench very often differ from the occupants of the right rev. Bench on many questions brought beforethe House. We always regret that, but on this occasion I think it is incumbent on us to express a lay view in support of the proposal of the right rev. Prelate. The Bill is a movement in the direction of reform which, though small, will have considerable effect. The noble Marquess who has just sat down spoke against the measure, and said it would be practically evaded. I venture to think that the noble Marquess is wrong. If the argument of the noble Marquess goes to prove anything, it is that the *bona fide* traveller should be altogether done away with. I am not prepared to say that. There is no doubt that new and different conditions of travelling have come about with the introduction of motor-cars, bicycles, and tricycles, and it is because that is so that it is impossible at the present time altogether to do away with the *bona fide* traveller. I think it would be unjust to leave those who seek fresh air on Sundays to obtain refreshment only during the hours when public-houses are open.

The noble Marquess has given us his views, and in listening to them I almost thought he had given his adherence to a principle for which many of us have been severely attacked—namely, the principle of local option. Though he guarded himself by saying that he was not in favour of it generally, he said he would apply the principle to this particular grievance. I rejoice to find that, even in such a small way, the noble Marquess has gone so far towards the principle of local option. It is true that this is a small measure, but it will certainly put this matter on a better footing than it is now. We all know what abuses attend the *bona fide* traveller exemption, and there is a general desire to diminish those evils; and, notwithstanding what the noble Marquess has said, I believe the Bill will go a long way in checking drunkenness. It has been said that there will be great difficulty in carrying out these changes, but the right rev. Prelate is quite willing to listen to suggestions and modifications in the provisions of the Bill, and therefore that need be no objection. I cannot see why there should be any greater difficulty in carrying out the limits in this Bill than there is in carrying out the present limits. For these reasons I shall certainly support the right rev. Prelate if he goes to a division.

***The Lord Bishop of HEREFORD**: My Lords, I am sure I am only voicing a general feeling which will prevail in the country when I express the profoundest disappointment and regret that we have not had from the noble Marquess any indication of what His Majesty's Government intend to do. I confess that this is a Bill to which I am personally not very much attached, as I do not care for these small and peddling bits of legislation. Taking the Bill, however, on its merits, I believe it will tend to strengthen the existing law. I am certain that it would be difficult to find in either House of Parliament any Member who would venture to propose the abrogation of the provision which the right rev. Prelate proposed to strengthen, and no one can live in the country without feeling that this Bill, if passed, will confer a very real benefit on many persons in certain neighbourhoods. My reason for interposing, however, is to endeavour to get from the noble Marquess an indication of the intention of the Government. I cannot but feel that before we are asked to vote on these smaller measures, to which the noble Marquess has such strong objection, we have some right to know what other measure, if any, the Government propose, and what guarantee we have that within a reasonable period the Government will give us anything better.

I am inclined to think that those who have any interest in temperance reform will act wisely in giving their support to a measure like this, because, if we are to put the natural interpretation on the language used in debates on the subject, we shall have to be thankful for small mercies. That being so, I do trust that this Bill will receive support. My still more earnest desire is that the noble Marquess will be persuaded to let us know what the Government intend to do. We had our attention drawn to this question in the debate which took place last night in the other House, but in the course of that debate it was impossible to gather what the attitude of His Majesty's Government is in regard to these questions. The representative of the Government who spoke in that debate said, as I understood, that he was only speaking on his own behalf and that of the Home Secretary, and not on behalf of the Government. One cannot but feel that this is very candid on the part of Ministers, but at the same time it takes away all the value from their statements. Reading the remarks of the subordinate members of the Government on this question, I can only draw this inference, that they are letting I dare not wait upon I would.

But when I listen to the noble Marquess I have a different feeling, the feeling that he does not believe in this kind of legislation at all, and that he is so devoted to the principle of individual liberty, or of *laissez faire*, in these social matters that he thinks we are better as we are. But if the noble Marquess had the kind of personal experience which a great many of us who live in the country and go about in the meaner streets of our cities have he would take a different view of the matter. It is not merely with the prevention of drunkenness that we have to deal; it is a question of whether the State shall do its duty in regard to what is a dangerous trade. One distinguished Member of this House—the late Prime Minister—said not long ago, if I remember right, that we were, under the influence of this traffic in drink, drifting perilously near the corruption of our political life, and I venture to think that that is the great question which lies at the root of this matter. If the noble Marquess had the leisure to study the evidence which was produced before his Royal Commission I cannot but believe that he would be convinced that, unless the Government take up temperance reform in earnest, there is danger of the corruption of our municipal and political life. I hope the noble Marquess will give us some guarantee that something will be done either during the present Session or within a reasonable time. I could give instances of towns in which municipal administration does seem to have been brought perilously near to becoming corrupt owing to the influence of the drink traffic; and, as I am given to understand, there are persons who have been decorated, whose connection with these matters the Prime Minister, I am sure, could not have known, or he would have been unwilling to see them so decorated, persons who were connected with maladministration of municipal affairs in regard to the drink traffic.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: I think this is rather libellous. The right rev. Prelate should name the persons whom he is attacking.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD: I could give the instances, but the point of my argument is that if the Prime Minister could give attention to the details of the evils connected with the drink traffic at the present time he would, I venture to think, be converted and become a more earnest temperance reformer than he has been hitherto. I cannot but believe, while holding firmly, as I do, to the great value of individual liberty and the importance of never neglecting the principle of *laissez faire* in politics, that temperance reform is one of the most pressing matters of the time, and it is our duty, a duty involving no interference with devotion to the principle of individual liberty, to take measures to regulate a dangerous trade.

On Question, their Lordships divided: Contents, 45; Not-Contents, 51. Resolved in the negative.

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BERWICKSHIRE COUNTY TOWN BILL [H.L.].

Read 3^a (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons.

LUDGATE HILL AND SNOW HILL RAILWAY STATIONS.

LORD MONKSWELL: My Lords, I rise to call the attention of the Parliamentary Secretary of the Board of Trade to the dangerous condition of the Ludgate Hill and Snow Hill passenger stations, and to ask whether the matter has been brought to the notice of the Board, and whether the Board can take any steps to compel the South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Companies to make more adequate provision for the safety and accommodation of the public. In calling attention to this matter I am acting with the approval of the Corporation of the City of London. The facts with regard to Ludgate Hill Station are as follow: The Corporation of the City of London called attention to the state of this station as far back as the end of 1898, and in January, 1899, they made a specific complaint to the Board of Trade. Sir John Monckton wrote—

> "I am directed to point out that the station is merely a timber structure, badly lighted, and has more the appearance of a temporary building than a station of considerable

importance; that the approaches to the station and platforms are inadequate and badly arranged; that the platforms, which have to serve both the up and the down traffic, are very low and narrow, and are in consequence a source of danger to passengers, particularly where the staircases occupy a large portion of the platform; that there is insufficient lavatory accommodation, and that the arrangements, generally, are ill-adapted to the exigencies of modern requirements and the increasing traffic."

The Board of Trade took the matter up, and the City Corporation heard nothing more about it till the end of October, 1899, when the Board of Trade sent to the Corporation a letter from the General Manager of the railways, in which it was stated that plans were being prepared showing what improvements could be effected, especially with regard to the access to the platforms. But from that time to this nothing whatever has been done, except to improve the lighting of the station. What the company say is that if they are to do any good they must spend a large sum of money to obtain compulsory powers to purchase. The City Corporation do not admit the plea of the companies that they can do nothing without compulsory powers of purchase; on the contrary, they (the Corporation) think that a very great improvement could be effected by utilising the vacant land that the companies have at the station itself, and that, comparatively, at small expense.

With regard to Snow Hill Station, the question of the insufficiency of the accommodation was originally taken up by the County Council in April, 1899. The Council complained of inadequate traffic accommodation, and made various suggestions, with which I shall not trouble your Lordships. Three days afterwards—on 8th April—the secretary to the companies replied to the effect that he hoped to be in a position to write definitely in a week or two. There the matter rested till 9th January, 1900 —about nine months—when the County Council thought it was time they got an answer. They wrote asking for a reply by 15th January. They got no answer, and up to 22nd November last they had received no answer to their letters beyond a formal acknowledgment. The County Council then handed the correspondence over to the Corporation of the City of London. This is the statement of the City Corporation with regard to this station—

"The station is entirely in a tunnel, and the line is on a curve at that point. It is extremely dangerous by reason of the steam, smoke, etc., having no means of escape, and consequently obscuring the lights. The want of ventilation is aggravated by bad sanitary accommodation on the platforms."

One would naturally suppose that in a matter of this kind the Railway Commissioners would have jurisdiction, but I am told that the Board of Trade have come to the conclusion that the Railway Commissioners have no jurisdiction. I am also told that the Board of Trade have no jurisdiction, and it does not seem that there is any power anywhere to compel these railway companies to do that which it is their obvious duty to do. These companies have come to your Lordships' House for a Bill to give them further powers. Under the circumstances, I should have thought that their conduct was so contumacious that I should be justified in moving an Instruction to the Committee that they should take into consideration the condition of these stations before agreeing to the Bill. But I do not propose to take that course, for I know your Lordships have a great objection to interfering with the discretion of any of your Committees. It certainly does appear to me, however, that as there is apparently no other means of compelling the railway companies to do their duty, this is a case in which the Committee might very well take into consideration the conduct of these companies with regard to these stations. I hope the noble Lord who will reply to this question will say that this is his view also. Perhaps he will at the same time say whether he does not consider it to be an unsatisfactory state of things that neither the Railway Commissioners nor the Board of Trade have any jurisdiction in this matter; and I hope that when the Bill which is being promoted by these companies gets before the Committee there will be some indication on the part of noble Lords that they think it desirable that the Committee should take some cognisance of the dereliction of duty to which I have called attention.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: In the absence of my noble friend the Secretary to the Board of Trade, I have been asked to reply to the noble Lord's question. Towards the close of his speech the noble Lord suggested that I should express my private opinion on certain matters connected with the powers of the Board of Trade over the railway companies. I am sorry that I cannot do more than read the answer which has been forwarded to me from the Department. The Board of Trade have received no recent communication with regard to Snow Hill Station. As to Ludgate Hill Station, the attention of the Department has more than once been called to the matter, and they have been in communication both with the railway company and the Corporation of the City about the accommodation provided. The Board of Trade are not in a position to say that an improvement in the accommodation of Ludgate Hill Station is not desirable for the convenience and, to some extent, the safety of the public, but it must be obvious that any adequate alteration of the station would cost an enormous sum of money, and a comprehensive scheme might necessitate the alteration of the viaduct over Ludgate Hill, which would be a doubtful advantage to the public, and the Corporation would probably have good reason to object. The Board of Trade possess no legal powers under which they can compel the company to make alterations in either case, but the Department has used its good offices, with the result that the company have agreed to meet the Corporation with the view to the preparation of a plan for altering Ludgate Hill Station. The Board of Trade will continue to use their good offices, and, if necessary, instruct one of their inspecting officers to confer with the City Corporation and the company on the subject.

THE ROYAL DECLARATION AGAINST ROMAN CATHOLICISM.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: My Lords, I beg to move the resolution standing in my name, which I read to your Lordships on Tuesday. As far as I know, there is no opposition to the motion on the part of the noble Lord. The only thing that it is necessary I should mention is that something has been said with respect to referring the Coronation Oath to the same Committee, and making in it alterations which undoubtedly will have to be made. But the two subjects are not at all similar, and it would have been impossible to put the Coronation Oath into this reference. If, later, it should be thought wise to use the same Committee for the purpose of considering the matter of the Coronation Oath, I probably shall see no difficulty in that. But I have no doubt that it will be necessary to have legislation upon the Coronation Oath, because at the present time we should be asking the King to swear that he will maintain all the rights of the Church of Ireland.

Moved, To resolve that it is desirable that a Joint Committee of both Houses be appointed to consider the Declaration required of the Sovereign, on his accession, by the Bill of Rights (1 Will. III. cap. 21 s. 1); and to report whether its language can be modified advantageously, without diminishing its efficacy, as a security for the maintenance of the Protestant succession.—(*The Lord Privy Seal.*)

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: It would be easy to insert the words "Oath and Declaration required of the Sovereign." The Oath and the Declaration have, in other documents, been referred to together. But, as the noble Marquess says there seems to be a difficulty, no doubt he is right.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: "His accession" would not represent "on his coronation." Again, there is some doubt how far the Coronation Oath is a security for the maintenance of the Protestant succession.

EARL SPENCER: It is certainly desirable that they should be treated in a different manner, and, as the noble Marquess undertakes to do that, no further criticism need be made.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: I only undertook to do that if it was necessary.

LORD HERRIES: I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether he can state the names of the Committee, as he promised to do on Tuesday.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: I was not aware, when I promised to give the names on Tuesday, that it is usual to wait until the names of Peers and Commoners have been selected before they are proposed. The Commons have not yet agreed to the Joint Committee.

LORD HERRIES: I presume the number has been fixed?

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: I do not know whether it has been fixed. We always contemplated a Committee of ten or eleven, but I should not bind myself if a reason occurred for having a larger Committee.

EARL SPENCER: And it will be after Easter?

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: Surely.

On Question, agreed to; Ordered, That a Message be sent to the Commons to communicate this Resolution, and to desire their concurrence.

House adjourned at five minutes before Seven of the clock till to-morrow, half-past Ten of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 21st March, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

WALLASEY IMPROVEMENT BILL.
[BY ORDER.]

MR. STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.) said he had to move an Instruction to the Committee to which the Wallasey Urban District Council Bill had been referred. It would be within the memory of hon. Members that during the year 1898 there was a great agitation throughout the length and breadth of the land, on the part of members of friendly societies, in regard to the matter raised by his Instruction. The agitation was due to the action of the East India Docks Company in instituting a shop club, and making it a condition of employment that their men should belong to it. They also sought to lay down a provision that such of their men as were already members of friendly societies should cease such membership. The feeling raised by that proposal was so strong that the Government appointed a Shop Clubs Committee, which reported to the House in March, 1899. It was quite clear that the general feeling of the country was entirely against the proposal of the East India Docks Company, and that compulsory shop clubs were deemed to be opposed to the interests, not only of working men, but of the great friendly societies. The Shop Clubs Committee, which was presided over by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Bordesley Division of Birmingham, and which included in its members Mr. (now Justice) Cozens-Hardy, and the Registrar General of Friendly Societies, suggested that shop clubs should in future be registered under the Friendly Societies Acts. Now that was all that was proposed by the Instruction he was moving. What would be the effect of such registration? It would be to secure that no member of the club should be deprived of any pecuniary benefit by reason of his leaving his employment. This was of the utmost importance to working men, because, in the absence of such registration, a man who had joined a shop thrift or provident club, and had been in his employment for some years and contributed to the funds of the club, might be deprived of all benefit therefrom by reason of leaving his situation, and his contributions would be lost to him. The registration would also secure that the men should have a voice in the appointment of the committee of management of the club, and that, he suggested, was only reasonable. There were further provisions to secure the proper investment of the funds of the club, and to ensure that the organisation was on a solvent basis. The Report of the Committee to which he had referred recommended that the Registrar of Friendly Societies should, before registration, satisfy himself that the scheme of the club was satisfactory, not only to the employer but also to the workmen. In the Bill now under consideration power was taken to form a Compulsory Superannuation Fund. The Shop Clubs Committee had recommended that it should not be lawful for any employer to make it a condition of employment that his workmen should join such a fund, and he certainly thought that, in any case where membership of a shop club was made compulsory, as under this Bill, the House would agree that it would only be fair and indeed necessary, in the interests of the employees, that registration, as he suggested, should be insisted upon. He was authorised by the National Conference of Friendly Societies to say that they unreservedly adopted the Report of the Shop Clubs Committee. He would like to remind the House that during the last Parliament the very clause he was now proposing was inserted in seven different private Bills, and even in the present session the Great Eastern Railway Company had accepted a similar provision, without any objection being raised on the part of the directors. That fact surely was sufficient proof that there could be no serious objection to the clause. They had been told in a circular issued by the Urban District Council of Wallasey that this proposal would render the scheme inoperative so far as the superior officers of the council were concerned, inasmuch as it would admit the benefits to be granted under it in the form of superannuation and other allowances. But he would point out that the Wallasey Bill was not confined merely to a proposal affecting their more highly-paid officials. Their scheme was to apply to every man in their employ. He would have made no objection to the Bill had it merely provided for the superannuation of employees receiving salaries of £2 or £3 a week and upwards. There was another difficulty in dealing with questions of this nature in private Bills, and it arose from the fact that in these private Acts the scheme itself was not set out so that the House or the Committee upstairs might judge whether or not it was fair. Instead of that the promoters of the Bill took power to set up a scheme after it had passed through the House. Was it right that anything of that kind should be allowed to be done? The promoters, in their circular, complained that if the Instruction were carried it would prevent them giving their higher-paid officials more than £200 in case of death, or a pension exceeding £50 a year on retirement. That was really not the case, and the suggestion was merely a red herring drawn across their path. The promoters said that the Bill already provided for the registration of their scheme by the Registrar of Friendly Societies. But that provision was a sham, for all that was provided was that the Registrar should register any scheme the Urban District Council chose to put forward, whether it was good or bad. He wanted the House to say that no scheme should be registered unless it was good, and met with the approval of the Registrar of Friendly Societies. Then, again, the Wallasey Urban District Council complained that the clause was vague and indefinite. Surely if that were the case the Manchester Ship Canal Company would never have accepted such a clause, nor would other companies have done so. What was more, the very Instruction he was now moving went before a Committee in the last Parliament, and that Committee called before it the Registrar of Friendly Societies and asked him if it were a fact that the clause was vague and indefinite. His reply was that it was not, and that he himself personally approved of it. A clause in almost identically the same words was sent to him by the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Agriculture while he held the position of Secretary to the Treasury, and he therefore could not understand what objection there could be to it now. As he said at the beginning of his remarks, his reasons for asking the House to approve this clause were, first, that the National Conference of Friendly Societies, which met last week in Birmingham, had unanimously decided that its adoption would be in the interests of friendly societies. He would remind the House that that conference represented a membership of over three and a half millions, with a capital of over twenty-five and a half millions. It was therefore a body which had some right to be considered representative, and which certainly by its action in the past had shown itself anxious to promote the interests of the working men of this country. His second reason for asking the House to carry the Instruction was that it was in the interests of working men, whether they were members of friendly societies or not. It was not desirable that any corporation or company should have power to set up compulsory thrift, provident, superannuation, or shop clubs, unless they were registered in the way he had suggested, the object of such registration being, of course, to ensure that the men got fair play and substantial benefits. If men were compelled, as a condition of employment, to join such clubs, it was only fair and just that they should be protected in the way he proposed. He begged to move.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Wallasey Improvement Bill to insert the following Clause—

> No scheme for the establishment of a superannuation or provident fund under this Act shall come into operation until it has been registered by the Registrar of Friendly Societies under the Friendly Societies Act."—(*Mr. Strachey.*)

MR. CHARLES M'ARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange), in opposing the Instruction on behalf of the promoters of the Bill, first explained that the Member for Mid Cheshire, who was to have undertaken the duty, was unfortunately prevented by illness from being present that afternoon, and had asked him to state the objections which were entertained to the proposal. This Bill contained a proposal to establish a fund for the purpose of providing the servants of the Council with an allowance in case of death, or with superannuation on retirement, and the principles on which the scheme was based were duly set forth in the Bill, the employees of the Council having to contribute one half of the funds required for the purpose, while the Council provided the other moiety. The promoters of the Bill, in opposing the Instruction, disclaimed altogether any hostility to the Friendly Societies Acts. They recognised, on the contrary, that those Acts were extremely useful within their proper sphere. But they suggested that the Instruction would not be at all appropriate to this Bill, inasmuch as it comprehended not only persons belonging to the working classes, but also a large number of superior officers under the Council—gentlemen who were receiving salaries of considerable amount, and for whom, therefore, the provisions contemplated by the Friendly Societies Acts would be entirely inadequate. There were no fewer than 107 of the employees of the Council who were paid by cheque and whose salaries amounted in the aggregate to £1,400 per annum. If the Bill were brought entirely under the provisions of the Friendly Societies Acts the result would be that no gross sum could be drawn by any servant of the Council exceeding £200, and no annuity exceeding £50 could be granted. The House would see, therefore, that the effect of adopting the Instruction would be to make the Bill altogether inoperative so far as the higher class officials were concerned. The hon. Member for South Somerset himself seemed to be in doubt whether or not that would be the effect of his own clause. He held in his hand the opinion of a Counsel of great eminence, to the effect that the result of the clause would be to entirely subordinate the Bill to the Friendly Societies Acts. The hon. Member had referred to the fact that he had succeeded in securing the insertion of the clause in other Bills, and he had alluded especially to the Great Eastern Railway Company's Bill. He ventured to point out that there was no analogy whatever between railway companies or kindred industrial organisations and a public authority such as was promoting this Bill. The hon. Member might have succeeded in introducing the Instruction in other Bills, but he was informed that the concession had been obtained in such cases under great pressure, and was only made because the Bills had reached a stage at which, unless the concession was granted, there was a danger of the Bill being lost for a year. Those cases therefore ought not to be accepted as a precedent. The promoters of the Bill had gone as far as they could to meet the hon. Member, who had suggested that his desire was to secure that no scheme should be registered which was not a good scheme and approved by the Registrar of Friendly Societies. The promoters were quite willing to agree to that, and in Clause 52 they had inserted words providing that no scheme under the Act should come into operation unless it was registered by the Registrar of Friendly Societies.

MR. STRACHEY: It gives no discretion to the Registrar. He is bound to register any scheme presented by the Corporation.

MR. CHARLES M'ARTHUR said it was open to the Registrar of Friendly Societies to point out any features which he thought undesirable or inequitable, and he was quite sure that it was the intention of the promoters of the Bill that he should do so. The House was asked to give a mandatory instruction to the Committee to insert this clause. He ventured to think that it should not do so, but that it should leave the matter to be threshed out before the Committee, which was the proper tribunal to settle matters in which local questions were involved. If the House would agree to send the Bill to the Committee without the proposed Instruction he promised, on behalf of the promoters, that every opportunity should be given for the discussion of the points raised by the hon. Member for South Somerset.

MR. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.) said it appeared to him that the arguments of the hon. Member for the Exchange Division of Liverpool were vague and required elucidation. Clause 52, to which he had referred, certainly did not to his mind convey the same meaning as the instruction of the hon. Member for South Somerset. The clause distinctly stated that the Registrar must register if he were satisfied that the scheme was in accordance with the provisions of the Bill. He, therefore, would have no choice but to register so long as the terms of the Bill were complied with. But the Instruction meant something different. It meant that the Registrar must be satisfied that in certain respects the scheme was satisfactory. One of those respects was that the fund should be largely under the management of those who paid into it, and secondly that the men should be granted fair terms on leaving their employment. Those conditions would be secured by insisting on registration as provided for by the Instruction. If they were going to allow local authorities to set up these schemes, it was only right that they should take every possible precaution to secure that the terms were fair to the men concerned. The Instruction would secure the safeguard that the Registrar himself would have to be satisfied that the men were justly dealt with under the scheme. He did not think there was any absolute need for limiting the benefits under the scheme. There was no objection to making an exception in the cases of highly-paid servants, and he therefore hoped that the promoters of the Bill would fall into line with the practice of the House.

MR. STEVENSON (Suffolk, Eye) also hoped that the hon. Member for the Exchange Division of Liverpool would not press his opposition to the Instruction. A question of far-reaching principle was involved in this matter. The point was, whether in cases in which superannuation or provident funds were established under the authority of Parliament they should, or should not, be under the supervision of the Registrar of Friendly Societies. And he was bound to say that in his opinion such supervision was very desirable, seeing that the Registrar had at his command the most skilled actuarial experience that could be obtained, and was able to apply general principles to the various conditions which might arise in connection with great companies and corporations. He thought there must be some mistake in the interpretation which the hon. Member told them had been placed upon the legal bearing of the Instruction. So far as he gathered, the effect of the Instruction would be to secure registration by the Registrar of Friendly Societies merely, and it would not involve registration under the Friendly Societies Act. The clause had become common in the Bills of great railway companies, and he saw no reason why it should not find a place also in the Bills of corporations. The Wallasley Urban District Council might not be a very great corporation, but there was a great principle involved, and it was desirable that it should be applied to all corporations, whether great or small.

COLONEL PILKINGTON (Lancashire, Newton), who was almost inaudible from the Press gallery, was understood to advocate giving the Committee a free hand in the matter, and to point out that the Local Government Board was always represented before Committees dealing with these Bills. He hoped the Instruction would be rejected.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) supported the Instruction, although he regretted the proposals contained in the Bill, fearing that the result of their adoption would be to postpone indefinitely that general scheme of old age pensions of which they had heard so much outside the House and seen so little inside it. The whole Bill seemed to have been loosely drawn, and his inclination would be to move its rejection altogether, in order to give the promoters time to reframe it in a more satisfactory manner. It seemed to him that if a scheme of this kind were established at all, it should be open to every class of workmen under the Council, and that it should not be in the power of anyone to say that certain well-paid employees should benefit under it, while the less well-paid might be excluded from it. Then, again, the scheme proposed to deprive of all benefit from the fund any employee of the Council who resigned his position in order to escape being dismissed for fraud, dishonesty, or misconduct. He respectfully submitted that that was too wide a power to give to any council. If a man were dismissed for misconduct, surely the dismissal was the punishment, and he ought not to be still further penalised by losing any benefit from a fund to which he had contributed during his service. The hon. Member for South Somerset had suggested that one of his objects was to safeguard the interests of the men by ensuring that the fund was actuarially sound. That, no doubt, was very important. He trusted that the House would agree to the Instruction, and when the Bill came back from the Committee, if it were still defective, they could refuse to pass it into law, and thus give the promoters time to put it in more acceptable form.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, Cumberland, Penrith) thought the House would be disposed to agree with his hon. friend that the Instruction was vague and indefinite. Even the hon. Member for the Eye Division of Suffolk disagreed with the hon. Member for South Somerset as to what would be its effect. The hon. Member who moved the Instruction said his point was to have the scheme registered under the Friendly Societies Acts, and that was the real matter in dispute between him and the promoters of the Bill. There was a clause in the Bill which left it open to the Registrar of Friendly Societies to register the scheme, but the promoters were afraid that, if the Friendly Societies Acts were incorporated in the Bill, certain results would be produced which were wholly unsuitable to the state of affairs in Wallasey. That would be wholly inapplicable to the case of officials who were drawing high salaries, and who served the borough in important positions. The argument of the promoters of the Bill was that if the Instruction of the hon. Member for South Somerset was accepted it would shut out from the scheme certain benefits which the promoters of the Bill intended to confer upon their servants. He did not believe that that was an object which the hon. Member himself would desire to see. He was opposed to the Instruction for the reason that the whole question would be and must be raised before the Committee to which the Bill had already been referred. The Registrar of Friendly Societies had reported against one of the clauses of the Bill—Clause 50—and that Report would be laid before the Committee. The Committee would have an opportunity of summoning Mr. Braybrooke and hearing his evidence—an opportunity which they had not got in the House; and the Committee would thus be able to insert a clause which would go as far as possible to meet the views of the hon. Member for South Somerset. He might say that the Friendly Societies Act was to be incorporated in certain respects and not in others. That could not be done at the present stage, where they must either incorporate the whole Act or not at all. There is a *via media* which was the solution of the difficulty, but it could not be taken that afternoon. For that reason he would move the rejection of the Instruction, and leave it to the Committee, after hearing the evidence of Mr. Braybrooke, to say whether all the sections of the Friendly Societies Act were or were not applicable to the particular circumstances of this case.

*MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe) said there was no doubt considerable dissatisfaction had been raised throughout the country in regard to these superannuation schemes by local bodies, railway companies, and others. He thought the House was indebted to those who had brought them before the House before being sent to Committee upstairs, and that this should be a lesson to the local bodies to frame their schemes more carefully. In this Bill there were eleven clauses under the head "Superannuation," and he could see that some of the phraseology was extremely crude and would have to be carefully considered in Committee. The right hon. Gentleman had stated that the Registrar of Friendly Societies had already objected to one of the clauses—Clause 50—but all of them would have to be carefully looked at. He thought that the debate should be adjourned so as to give an opportunity to the promoters of the Bill and hon. Members who objected to some of its provisions for consultation.

MR. CHARLES McARTHUR said he was authorised by the promoters of the Bill to state that they were willing that the Bill should be so amended that the Registrar of Friendly Societies should have the discretion of saying whether the conditions under the Bill were fairly reasonable.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick) did not propose to go over the ground already covered by hon. Members who had spoken, but he represented a certain proportion of working men in Ireland, and he agreed with the mover of the motion. All these questions regarding superannuation ought to be carefully discussed. There were often very curious clauses in some of these "omnibus" or so-called Improvement Bills which superseded the ordinary law of the land. As the Gentleman in charge of the Bill was absent, that was a reason why the debate should be adjourned and an opportunity be given for conference. But there were certain penal clauses in regard to dairies and tuberculosis to which he wished to refer.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member must confine his remarks to the Instruction moved.

MR. FIELD said that the other day, in connection with a Great Eastern Railway Bill, an Instruction proposed to be moved had been withdrawn and the promoters had agreed to have a conference in order that the clause objected to should be amended. He moved the adjournment of the debate to permit of a conference between the promoters and those who took a different view from them in regard to this exceedingly important matter.

MR. DALY (Monaghan, S.) seconded the Amendment.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Debate be now adjourned."—(*Mr. Field.*)

But Mr. SPEAKER being of opinion that the motion was an abuse of the rules of the House, put the Question thereon forthwith to the House.

The House divided:—Ayes, 102; Noes, 175. (Division List No. 82.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Austin, Sir John
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bell, Richard
Bignold, Arthur
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carew, James Laurence
Causton, Richard Knight
Clancy, John Joseph
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Ellis, John Edward
Farrell, James Patrick
Ffrench, Peter
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. K. (Merthyr Tydvil
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. C. Seale-
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. C. H.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kinloch, Sir John Geo. Smyth
Kitson, Sir James
Lambert, George
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Lewis, John Herbert
Lundon, W.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Cann, James
M'Crae, George
M'Fadden, Edward

M‘Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Partington, Oswald
Pemberton, John S. G.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roche, John
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Soares, Ernest J.
Stevenson, Francis S.
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thomas, A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, J. A. (Gl'm'rg'n, Gowr
Thompson, E. C. (Monaghan, N.
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Weir, James Galloway
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Field and Captain Donelan.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allsopp, Hon. George
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt Hn. Gerald W (Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Barlow, John Emmott
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Boulnois, Edmund
Brigg, John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Brown, Alex. H. (Shropshire
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cawley, Frederick
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chapman, Edward
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Crombie, John William
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Elibank, Master of
Elliot Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Fardell, Sir T. George
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fenwick, Charles
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (Manc'r
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward A.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Gladstone, Rt Hn. Herbert John
Graham, Henry Robert
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir William Brampton
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Henderson, Alexander
Hoare, Ed. Brodie (Hampstead)
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightsd.
Horner, Frederic William
Howard, Capt. J. (Kent, Favers.
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Hozier, Hon. James Henry C.
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Joicey, Sir James
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawson, John Grant
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Bristol, S.)
Lonsdale John Brownlee
Lowther, Rt Hn J W (Cum. Penr.
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W G Ellison
Maconochie, A. W.
M‘Kenna, Reginald
M‘Killop, Jas. (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Paulton, James Mellor
Percy, Earl
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, John Wynford
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Richard
Pirie, Duncan V.
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Price, Robert John
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Randles, John S.
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley, Hon. M. W (Stalybridge
Ridley, S. F. (Bethnal Green)
Rigg, Richard
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith, H. C. (North mb. Tynes
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hast'gs
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomkinson, James
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H. (Shef'd
Walker, Col. William Hall
Wallace, Robert
Walrond, Rt. Hn Sir Wm. H.
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E (Taunt'n,
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L

Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Williams, Rt Hn J. Powell-(Bir.
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Hn. Armine (Essex
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Strachey and Mr. Chas. M'Arthur.

Original Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 186 ; Noes, 114. (Division List No. 83.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Ambrose, Robert
Austin, Sir John
Baldwin, Alfred
Barlow, John Emmott
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Brown, Geo. M. (Edinburgh)
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carew, James Laurence
Cawley, Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Crombie, John William
Daly, James
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dilke, Rt. Hn. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Chas. M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Sir Francis H. (Maidst.)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Farrell, James Patrick
Fellowes, Hn. Ailwyn Edward
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Finch, George H.
Flower, Ernest
Flynn, James Christopher
Furness, Sir Christopher
Garfit, William
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herb. John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. K. (Merthyr Tydvil
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Hoare, E. Brodie (Hampstead)
Hogg, Lindsay
Holland, William Henry
Hope, J. F (Sheffield, Brightside
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hozier, Hon. Jas. Henry Cecil
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Joicey, Sir James
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kinloch, Sir John Geo. Smyth
Kitson, Sir James
Lambert, George
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leng, Sir John
Leveson-Gower, Fred. N. S.
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Lundon, W.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Cann, James
M'Crae, George
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mappin, Sir Fredk. Thorpe
Markham, Arthur Basil
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Murphy, J.
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Partington, Oswald
Pemberton, John S. G.
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Plummer, Walter R.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Randles, John S.
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roche, John
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alex.
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Soares, Ernest J.
Spear, John Ward
Stevenson, Francis S.
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings
Thomas, J. A (Glamorgan Gower
Thompson, E. C. (Monaghan, N.
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Vincent, Col. Sir C E H (Sheffield
Wallace, Robert
Walrond, Rt. Hn Sir William H.
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
Welby, Lt.-Col. A C E (Taunton
Whiteley, Geo. (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wodehouse, Hn. Armine (Essex
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Strachey and Mr. Harry Samuel.

NOES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G.W.(Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barry, Sir Francis T.(Windsor
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Bignold, A.
Bill, Charles
Boulnois, Edmund
Bowles, Capt. H.F.(Middlesex
Brown, Alexander H.(Shropsh.
Burt, Thomas
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V.C.W.(Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cullinan, J.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Sir Jos. Cockfield
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fergusson, Rt Hn Sir J (Manc'r)
Fielden, Edw. Brocklehurst
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hn. Edward Algernon
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Gibbs, Hn. A G H (City of Lond.
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Green, Walford D (Wednesbury
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Henderson, Alexander
Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.
Horner, Frederick William
Howard, Capt J (Kent, Faversh.
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowther, Rt Hn J W (Cum. Penr
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W G Ellison
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert G. C.
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipper'ry Mid
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Paulton, James Mellor
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Reid, James (Greenock)
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thomas Myles
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Smith, H C (Northmb. Tyneside
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-u.-Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Rt Hn J Powell-(B'rm
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

Tellers for the Noes—
Mr. Charles M'Arthur and
Colonel Pilkington.

Mr. HORNER (Lambeth): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask whether it is allowable for a teller to stand at the door and say, "Those who are in favour of friendly societies come to the Aye Lobby."

*Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a point of order, nor do I suppose that such a statement could mislead any hon. Member.

Mr. HORNER: I am quite sure it did.

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Wallasey Improvement Bill to insert the following clause—

> No scheme for the establishment of a superannuation or provident fund under this Act shall come into operation until it has been registered by the Registrar of Friendly Societies under the Friendly Societies Act.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz:—

Glasgow and South Western Railway Bill.

Hull, Barnsley, and West Riding Junction Railway and Dock Bill.

Metropolitan Railway Bill.

North-Eastern Railway Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 63 COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the

First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 63 has been complied with, viz.:—

Notting Hill Electric Lighting Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

PRIVATE BILL PETITION [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petition for the Worcester Tramways Bill, reported by the Chairman of Ways and Means as intended to originate in the House of Lords, the Standing Orders have been complied with.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (TRAMWAYS AND STREET WIDENINGS) BILL.

"To enable the London County Council to construct new tramways and to reconstruct and alter tramways in the county of London; to work tramways by electric traction; and to make new streets and street improvements; and for other purposes," read the first time; to be read a second time.

METROPOLITAN POLICE PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL (by Order).

Read a second time, and committed.

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP 1).

Mr. Jeffreys reported from the Committee on Group 1 of Railway Bills, That the parties opposing the London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway Bill had stated that the evidence of A. Horsburgh Campbell, Surveyor to the Urban District Council of East Ham, was essential to their case; and it having been proved that his attendance could not be procured without the intervention of the House, he had been instructed to move that the said A. Horsburgh Campbell do attend the said Committee To-morrow, at half past Eleven of the clock.

Ordered, That A. Horsburgh Campbell do attend the Committee on Group 1 of Railway Bills To-morrow, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

PETITIONS.

BEER BILL.

Petition from Bowes, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).

Petition from Finchley, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.

Petition from West Woodburn, for extension to women; to lie upon the Table.

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1896.

Petitions for alteration of Law from Atcham and Milton next Sittingbourne; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Blaenavon; Spennymoor; Bowden Close; Hirwain (two); Byers Green; Bishop Auckland (eight); Luton (two); Whittington Moor; Liverpool (five); Salford (seven); Copford; Halifax (two); Bedfordshire; Leighton Buzzard; Durham; Pendleton (three); South Norwood (two); East Ham; Berwick-on-Tweed; Goole; Newcastle-on-Tyne (six); Nottingham (two); Wishaw; Benwell; Camperdown; Willington Quay; Cambusnethan; Overtown; Cardiff (ten); Chelmsford; St. Marylebone; Galashiels; Rhondda Valley; Ferndale; Hollinwood; Henley-on-Thames; Wolverhampton; Hawkhurst; Regent's Park; Edinburgh (two); Port Glasgow; Ticehurst; Stockport (two); Burwash Weald; Kirkintilloch (two); Sheffield (six); Jamestown; Birmingham (eight); Croydon; Birkenhead (two); Wigton; Newmilns; Clifton; Oswestry; Norwich (five); St. Budeaux; Wombwell (three); Oldham; Kingsteignton; Bury (three); West Salford; Hayfield; Woolfold; Clydebank; Kirkwall (two); Crosthwaite; Great Salkeld; Penrith; Weaste; Aston; Pontefract; Keswick; Lofthouse; Mirfield (three); Pudsey (three); Stanningley (two); Dewsbury; Llwynypia; Leeds (two); Churwell; Horsforth;

Barnsley; Blodcuyn y Duffryn; Aldingbourne; Ilfracombe; Wrockwardine Wood; Hornsey Rise; Islington; Exmouth (six); Caledonian Road; Deptford Park; Patricroft; Walton Park; Greenock (four); Clevedon; Annan; Bradford; Ealing; Kilmarnock; Skegness; Sidmouth; Southend; Lyminster; Bristol (three); Hexham; Holly Park; Hunwick; Willington; Brecon; Aylestone; Woolwich; Bagslate; Rochdale (three); Heywood; Fordingbridge (two); Wakefield (two); Elgin (three); Crowborough; Chelsea; Withington (two); Lancaster (three); Glasgow (eight); Morison; Warmby; Dundee (two); St. Albans; East Dulwich; Corsham (two); Balsall Heath; Stedham; West Norwood; Forest Hill (two); Catford; Hastings; Ffynnon Groew; Mold Junction; Rossett; Peterhead; Easebourne; Loughborough Park; Oldland Common; Devizes; Stockbridge; Wandsworth; and Fishbourne; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL AND SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Perth, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Dundee; Lochee; Newmilns (two); Kinneil; Borrowstounness; Uphall; Whitburn (two); Kirkintilloch; Galashiels (two); Langton; Hawick; Glasgow (three); Kirkwall; Peebles; Erzie; Bowling; Greenock (six); Aberdeen (two); Rattray; Sandwick (five); and Charlestown; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL v. LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.

Return [presented 20th March] to be printed. [No. 89.]

ARMY (ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY, WOOLWICH).

Copy presented, of Report of the Board of Visitors for 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY (ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE, SANDHURST).

Copy presented, of Report of the Board of Visitors for 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY.

Copy presented, of Finding of a Court of Inquiry, held at Barberton on the 25th September, 1900, to investigate the circumstances under which Lieutenant-Colonel B. E. Spragge, D.S.O., 13th Battalion Imperial Yeomanry, and others, became prisoners of war [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE (ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND IRELAND).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 19th March; *Mr. Lough*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 90.]

IMPERIAL REVENUE (COLLECTION AND EXPENDITURE) (GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 19th March, *Mr. Lough*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 91.]

CHARITY COMMISSION (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Copy presented, of Forty-eighth Report of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2,562 to 2,564 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS (MAIDSTONE).

Ordered, That the Copy of the Judges' Report and Minutes of Evidence in the Maidstone Election Trial be printed. [No. 92.]—(*Mr. Attorney General.*)

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GENERAL BOTHA.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): I wish to ask the

Colonial Secretary whether he can say when the Papers relating to the recent negotiations in South Africa will be distributed to Members. He will understand our desire to see them.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): I quite understand the desire of the right hon. Gentleman, which, I think, is perfectly reasonable. There has been a little delay owing to the necessity for us to telegraph to Lord Kitchener for the full text of his communication to General Botha. That only reached us this morning. The Papers are now in the hands of the printers, and I am told they will be delivered to-morrow, by the time the House meets, I hope.

TRANSVAAL CIVIL ADMINISTRATION—MR. DOUGLAS FORSTER.

*SIR BRAMPTON GURDON (Norfolk, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether Mr. Douglas Forster has been appointed to a legal post in the Transvaal by or with the knowledge of Sir Alfred Milner; and, if so, what are his duties and his salary; whether he is the same person who, under the name of Adolphus Ellis, was manager of a theatrical company in the Transvaal; and what are his qualifications for the office which he holds.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have no information on this matter. If the hon. Gentleman wishes me to do so, I am prepared to make inquiries of Sir Alfred Milner; but I would ask him to consider whether, in view of the enormous work now imposed on Sir Alfred, he would wish me to inquire in this case unless he has some evidence to show that Sir Alfred is in any way whatever connected with it.

*SIR BRAMPTON GURDON: Will the right hon. Gentleman inquire whether the appointment has been made by any subordinate officer? The right hon. Gentleman will remember that during the last session he spoke to me about this very man.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: My present information is confined to an answer given by my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War, which was to the effect, I think, that this gentleman had been employed by Lord Roberts. As far as I understand the matter, the gentleman has no connection whatever with Sir Alfred Milner.

BOER PRISONERS—MRS. HERTZOG.

MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether it has been brought to his knowledge that Albert Hertzog, a child of two years of age, has lately been released from imprisonment in the camp at Port Elizabeth, but that his mother is still a prisoner in the same camp; whether Mrs. Hertzog is the wife of Judge Hertzog, lately a member of the High Court at Bloemfontein; and whether there is any good reason of State why she should not be permitted to join her child.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have no information, but will inquire.

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY'S ACCOUNTS.

MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has received from the British South Africa Company, as required by its charter, accounts for the financial years ending 31st March, 1899, and 1900, and Estimates of revenue and expenditure for the year ending 31st March, 1901; and when they will be laid upon the Table.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The accounts for the financial years ended the 31st March, 1899 and 1900, have not yet been received, but will be asked for at once. I have received the Estimates of revenue and expenditure for the year ending 31st March, 1901, and they will be laid on the Table.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONCENTRATION OF STORES AT LADYSMITH.

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state the name of the officer in South Africa who ordered military stores to be concentrated at Ladysmith; whether he was acting on instructions from home or on his own responsibility, and at what date was the concentration of such stores commenced.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): No, Sir, I cannot, within the limits of a reply to a question, adjust the responsibility as to the concentration of stores at Ladysmith between officers at home and on the spot.

MR. LAMBERT: Will this question come within the purview of the inquiry on the war?

MR. BRODRICK: No terms of reference have yet been suggested, but if an inquiry takes place this point, among many others, might come within it.

MR. M'KENNA (Monmouthshire, N.): Did the right hon. Gentleman say "if" or "when" the inquiry takes place?

MR. BRODRICK: Any inquiry on that subject should be addressed to my right hon. friend the First Lord of the Treasury.

SOLDIERS' WIDOWS' PENSIONS.

MR. KEARLEY (Devonport): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the Government scheme of pensions to widows and orphans of those who lose their lives in South Africa will include the widows of those who married off the strength; whether the Government allowances will be granted irrespective of life annuities already given by outside funds, and from what date will the pensions be payable and through what channel will they be remitted.

MR. BRODRICK: The pensions will only be given to women on the married establishment, including the wives of men of the Reserve, Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteers married before mobilisation. The pensions will be given irrespective of annuities already given by outside funds. The pensions will be given from the 1st July. The channel of payment has not yet been settled.

ALLEGED BOER ATROCITY AT TAAIBOSCH.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he has any information showing that, on 19th February, the Boers, after capturing a train at Taaibosch, fired upon the passengers, black and white, killing hundreds as they lay maimed and wounded in the wreckage.

*THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): I have no official information of the matter alluded to.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: As this statement has been widely circulated, will the noble Lord take steps to ascertain whether there is any truth in it?

*LORD STANLEY: If there is any truth in it we shall have official information.

COMFORTS FOR THE TROOPS.

MR. MANSFIELD (Lincolnshire, Spalding): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the telegram from Lord Kitchener asking for comforts for the troops in South Africa, he will arrange that all such comforts shall be sent out free of cost to the sender; and, if so, whether small parcels can also be sent post free.

*LORD STANLEY: Boxes and parcels, if sent carriage paid to the Embarking Staff Officer, Empress Dock, Southampton, will be forwarded without further charge to the corps or individual to whom they are addressed.

MR. LAMBERT: May I ask how long these parcels will take to get to the troops, and whether there is any chance of their being blocked at Durban or Cape Town?

*LORD STANLEY: There are reasons for which I am not responsible which occasionally prevent trains from going up north.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): Is it not the fact that many of the parcels sent in this way have been five months on the road, whereas those sent through the Post Office have gone through without any delay at all?

[No answer was given.]

MR. MANSFIELD: Can small parcels be sent post free?

*LORD STANLEY: That is a question which would have to be referred to South Africa, as the Colonial Government would be responsible for part of the payment. We should have to get their consent.

MR. MANSFIELD: Will you endeavour to do so?

[No answer was given.]

MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether, in view of the approach of winter in South Africa, care will be taken to provide the troops with a sufficient supply of flannel underclothing.

*LORD STANLEY: Yes, Sir. Large supplies of flannel shirts, woollen drawers, and jerseys have been sent out.

REJECTED MARK IV. BULLETS.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War, in view of the fact that fifty millions Mark IV. bullets have been manufactured, and that four and a half millions have been broken up because they were useless, will he state what has been done with the remaining forty-five and a half millions.

*LORD STANLEY: In the first place I am not sure that the hon. Member's figures are correct.

MR. WEIR: I know they are.

*LORD STANLEY: These bullets have been made up into cartridges, which are being used for practice purposes.

MR. WEIR: Are they dum-dum or soft-nosed bullets?

MR. KEIR HARDIE: Have all these bullets that were sent out to South Africa been brought back again?

*LORD STANLEY: No, Sir.

MR. WEIR: I again ask the noble Lord whether these bullets were soft-nosed or dum-dum bullets.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): Where were they made?

*LORD STANLEY: That does not arise out of the question.

SOLDIERS' KITS.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been directed to the fact that infantry soldiers are only allowed two shirts in their kit, and whether, in view of the complaints made as to the inadequacy of this supply, he purposes making any additions thereto.

LORD STANLEY: This matter has been very carefully considered, and it has not been held necessary to make any change.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: Have any complaints been received from the men or from medical officers?

LORD STANLEY: Not that I know of.

YEOMANRY TRAINING.

MR. STOCK (Liverpool, Walton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War, seeing that the majority of Yeomanry regiments come out for their annual training in May, whether he can now state when the Army Order will be published giving the requirements of the War Office this year with respect to the period of training, camping out, uniform, and amount of recruiting, in order to allow the necessary arrangements to be made in reasonable time by Colonels and Adjutants of Yeomanry.

LORD STANLEY: The Army Order is being drafted with all possible speed, but I must ask for a few days law.

BOY RECRUIT

COLONEL BROOKFIELD (Sussex, Rye): I beg to ask the Secretary for War whether his attention has been called to the case of George Harold Over, recently charged before the Lambeth magistrate with being an absentee from the East Surrey Militia, when it was elicited that Over was only fourteen years old, though serving as a full-grown private soldier; and whether the conduct of the medical officer responsible for having passed him will receive any official notice from the military authorities.

Lord STANLEY: I have inquired into this case. Over gave his age as seventeen years four months. His height was 5 feet 3¼ inches, chest measurement thirty-two inches, and weight 108 pounds. The medical officer considered his appearance and physical equivalent as being that of a youth of seventeen years and three months. The boy has been ordered to be discharged.

EBRINGTON BARRACKS, LONDONDERRY.

The Marquess of HAMILTON (Londonderry): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office if he will state the cause of the delay in bringing to a completion the enlargement of the Ebrington Barracks in Londonderry, with a view to having that place established as a military headquarters, and if he can say, at the present rate of progress, when the extension will be completed and the headquarters duly established, as so repeatedly promised.

Lord STANLEY: This is one of the numerous cases of delay caused by the difficulties which meet the War Department in the purchase of land for military purposes. Contracts for all the principal buildings are now in hand, and it is hoped to complete the extension by June, 1902.

ALDERSHOT ARMY SCHOOL.

Mr. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the suicide of an Army schoolmaster at Aldershot on 6th March, stated at the inquest to be due to overwork in an understaffed school for excessively long hours, 8.30 a.m. to 8.30 p.m., steps may be taken by the War Office to improve the conditions of service in Army schools, so as to attract to Army schools an adequate supply of teachers, and ensure that they shall not be required to work in school for unreasonably long hours.

Lord STANLEY: An Inter-Departmental Committee has recently been appointed to consider questions dealing with Army schoolmasters, and amongst them the adequacy of the staff.

DINGWALL BARRACK ACCOMMODATION.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that although the regimental depôt for the 3rd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, Ross-shire Militia, is at Dingwall, barrack accommodation is not adequate, part only of the staff being quartered at Dingwall and the rest of the staff and men at Fort George; and will he consider the expediency of erecting barracks on one or other of the sites in the immediate vicinity of the town, so that the whole of the staff and men may be accommodated in the county town.

Lord STANLEY: I have nothing to add to the replies given to similar questions put by the hon. Member on several previous occasions.

SCOTTISH VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY.

Mr. NICOL (Argyllshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether it is the intention of the Government to re-arm the Scotch Volunteer Artillery with the 4·7 guns; and, if so, can he state when this is likely to be carried out.

Lord STANLEY: Some Scotch Volunteer batteries will be included amongst the Volunteer batteries to be re-armed with the 4·7 guns. I cannot say at present when this will be carried out.

WRECK OF H.M.S. "SYBILLE."

*Sir JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what officers, besides the captain, and what number of bluejackets and marines respectively belonging to H.M.S. "Sybille" were on duty on shore when that ship was wrecked; and whether the Admiralty have information to the effect that the captain of the ship has since specially complimented the engineer and stokers for saving all the heavy guns under very difficult circumstances when the ship was ashore.

*The SECRETARY to the ADMIRALTY (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.): The information received at the Admiralty is to the effect that the captain, two lieutenants, and fifty men were anded, Captain Williams, in his evidence before the Court-Martial, remarked that the work in connection with saving the guns reflected great credit on Mr. Dawson, assistant engineer, and his party of stokers. The Court added the following rider to the sentence—

"The Court are of opinion that every possible effort was made to save the ship after she first struck, and that good order and discipline were maintained under trying and difficult circumstances, and that the salvage operations were conducted in a manner creditable to all the officers and men taking part therein."

NAVAL CONSTRUCTION.

MR. MACARTNEY (Antrim, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what was the amount spent upon new construction in the nine months ending respectively on the 31st December, 1899, and the 31st December, 1900.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The amount spent upon new construction in the nine months ending the 31st December, 1899, was £4,256,643 and in the nine months ending the 31st December, 1900, £5,182,883.

CHINA: ANGLO-RUSSIAN DISPUTE AT TIENTSIN.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether General Barrow ordered the Russians to be opposed by force of arms in regard to the dispute over the railway at Tientsin; and, if so, why such order was not executed.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): So far as I know, all orders issued by General Barrow have been executed; but his action in this instance, as I before said, was strictly limited to the protection of British rights on ground he believed to be property of the railway.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon): I beg to ask the Leader of the House whether he has any announcement to make as to the negotiations between Russia and this country.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): No, Sir; I have no statement to make.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I understand a statement has been made in another place.

AN IRISH MEMBER: Oh, we shall hear it next week.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: May I ask the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether it is not the case that a statement has been made by the Secretary of State in another place? I think we ought to know it.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Viscount CRANBORNE, Rochester): I have not the least doubt that my noble friend had notice given him, and if the hon. Member will give me notice of a question I shall be happy to answer it.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): Surely, Mr Speaker, the House of Commons is entitled to hear some hours afterwards----

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is not entitled to comment on the answer of the noble Lord. This is not the time for comment.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I understand that no notice could be given because this question relates to negotiations which were conducted to-day.

MR. O'SHEE (Waterford, W): I beg to ask the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs a question, of which I have given private notice, whether His Majesty's Government has any information as to the despatch or the bringing up of reinforcements of the British troops at Tientsin, and whether additional British troops have reached Tientsin yesterday or to-day, or are expected to arrive there; and whether the Russian general has issued a statement that no settlement is possible except on the condition of the withdrawal of the British troops.

LORD G. HAMILTON: If the hon. Member will allow me I shall answer the question. [Opposition cries of "Why?"] The hon. Member put a question as to the British troops in China, and those troops are under my orders. The answer to the first question is in the negative. The reply to the second question is that a certain number of white troops have been substituted for certain of the native Indian troops stationed at Tientsin. In reply to the third question, such a statement is reported to have been made, but I am not aware that it is authentic.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Though the noble Lord the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs is, of course, entitled to ask for notice of any question put to him, still I would ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether some Member of the Government could not make a statement as to what is going on in China, seeing that a statement on that subject has been made in another place.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The right hon. Gentleman and the House appear to be under the impression that we are deliberately concealing something from the House which we know to have been given to the other House. I have not the smallest idea of what the communication was that was made to the other House.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: Nor have I.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether in future he can make arrangements that when important communications on foreign affairs are made in the other House they shall also be made in this House?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: We are always anxious that this House should have the earliest information on all points, but it would be practically impossible to lay down a rule that a question should never be answered in the House of Lords without previous notice to us here.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: May I ask whether an arrangement has been arrived at whereby both Russian and British troops are to retire from the disputed territory, that matters are to be referred to Count von Waldersee, and that an apology is to be offered by the party found to be in the wrong?

*MR. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby): Was not a full statement made by the Foreign Secretary in the other House at half-past four o'clock in answer to Earl Spencer?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: This is the first intimation I have received of it. I have no doubt that if the hon. Gentleman says it is so it is true, but I am not aware of it.

MR. O'SHEE: Arising out of the answer of the noble Lord, I should like to ask whether the substitution of British white troops for the native troops who were at Tientsin is due to the fact that friction exists between the French and British troops there?

[No answer was returned.]

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Cannot the First Lord of the Treasury get the House out of its difficulty by deputing the noble Lord the Under Secretary to go down to the other House and see his chief?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! Hon. Members are proceeding to debate the whole question. Some other opportunity must be taken for that.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Cannot I have an answer to the specific question I put?

[No reply was given.]

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Ministers ought to be in this House, and not in the other House.

RUSSO-CHINESE AGREEMENT ON MANCHURIA.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the assurances given by Count Lamsdorff, on 6th February, 1901, to the British Ambassador at St. Petersburg, regarding the Russo-Chinese Agreement as to Manchuria, referred to an agreement made at Port Arthur between the Russian and Chinese local representatives on 22nd November, 1900, and not the principal agreement made at Peking and received at St. Petersburg after 6th February.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: In the opinion of His Majesty's Government the statement made by Count Lamsdorff on the 6th of February, and confirmed by him on the 27th, is applicable to any agreement with regard to Manchuria between the Russian and Chinese Governments.

THE YANG-TSZE VICEROYS.

MR. YERBURGH (Chester): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the services rendered by the Viceroys Liu Kun-yi and Chang Chih-tung during the Boxer outbreak, in protecting foreigners and preserving order, and of the fact that the said Viceroys have memorialised the Thronefor the introduction of reforms, the Government will press the Court to authorise them to introduce at once reforms within their own provinces, and to guarantee that they shall under no pretext be disturbed for a definite term of years in the carrying out of such reforms.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: His Majesty's Government recognise the importance of the services rendered by the Viceroys Liu Kun-yi and Chang Chih-tung, and would gladly support them in promoting measures for the development of China and its opening to foreign trade. His Majesty's Government authorised His Majesty's Minister at Peking in October last to make a strong protest against the removalof the Viceroys, and His Majesty's Minister replied that he was satisfied that there was no danger of their removal.

TREATIES BETWEEN THIS COUNTRY AND CONTINENTAL POWERS.

MR. STEVENSON (Suffolk, Eye): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether those portions of the Anglo-Belgian Treaties of 1831, 1839, and 1870, and of the Anglo-Turkish Convention of 1878, as have not been expressly repealed by subsequent international instruments, are still held to be binding upon this country.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: The treaty of 15th November, 1831, between Great Britain with other Powers and Belgium was superseded by the Treaty of 19th April, 1839, between the same parties, which is still in force. The treaties between Great Britain and Prussia, of 9th August, 1870, and between Great Britain with France of 11th August, 1870, were of a temporary character only, and ceased to operate twelve months after the ratification of the Treaty of Peace between France and the North German Confederation. The Anglo-Turkish Convention of 4th January, 1878, is still in force; but the obligations of this country under it were made contingent upon certain reforms in that country.

EXTRADITION TREATY WITH THE UNITED STATES.

MR. TAYLOR (Lancashire, Radcliffe): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in view of the fact that under our extradition treaty with the United States a bankrupt debtor may defy his British creditors upon his arrival in the United States, whether the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs will endeavour to get an amended extradition treaty under which absconding bankrupts may be made amenable to our bankruptcy laws.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): I beg, at the same time, to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that when the extradition treaty or treaties which govern the relations of this country and the United States of America were concluded no provisions were made for offences under the bankruptcy laws; and whether negotiations have been proceeding with the Government of the United States to remedy this alleged want; if so, whether the matter will be dealt with without any unnecessary delay in the interests of the commercial community, as cases of loss to the business world in both countries are not infrequent.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: His Majesty's Government have endeavoured on more than one occasion of late years to make provision for the mutual surrender in extradition of persons charged with offences against the bankruptcy laws in this country and in the United States. In 1884 the offence was inserted in the draft of a treaty then under negotiation, but it was not accepted by the United States Government. The proposal was again put forward in 1889 by Her Majesty's Government, but Her Majesty's Ambassador at Washington reported that offences against bankruptcy laws were excluded from all American extradition treaties because no national bankruptcy law existed, and the law varied in each State of the Union. The matter was accordingly not further pressed by His Majesty's Government.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Senate of the United States has recently ratified an extension of the crimes for which the extradition of criminals can be accorded to Great Britain; and, if so, what crimes may now be added to the list, and, having regard to the policy of the American people to keep their country free from immigration of criminals as evidenced by their legislation, His Majesty's Government will endeavour to make the list of extradition crimes between this country and the United States as complete as between other civilised countries.

*VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington reported on the 13th instant that the Senate of the United States had approved a Supplementary Extradition Treaty signed on the 13th of December last. This Treaty adds to the offences mentioned in the Treaties of 1842 and 1889 the following offences:—Obtaining money, valuable securities, or other property by false pretences; wilful and unlawful destruction or obstruction of railroads which endangers human life; procuring abortion. Steps are being taken for the early ratification of this Supplementary Treaty. The list of extradition offences is practically as complete as that contained in the Treaties of other countries with the United States. Further additions will be considered if necessity should arise, and so far as the laws of both countries may permit.

HIGHLAND RAILWAYS: MIXED TRAINS.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the passenger trains running on the Highland Railway between Muir of Ord and Avoch, Ross-shire, are frequently mixed, and are not provided throughout with the continuous brake; and will he take steps to require the Highland Railway Company to conform with the Board of Trade regulations.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The Order made by the Board upon the Highland Railway Company under the Regulation of Railways Act, 1889, authorised the running of a limited number of mixed trains for the conveyance of goods and passengers, subject to specified conditions, of which one is "that the engine tender and passenger vehicles of such mixed trains shall be provided with continuous brakes worked from the engine." In fixing the number of such mixed trains from time to time the Board of Trade, as directed by the Act, have regard to the nature and extent of the traffic on the railway concerned. All the engines and passenger vehicles of such trains are stated to be duly fitted with an automatic brake, and the Board' sOrder appears, therefore, to be fully complied with.

MR. WEIR: Will the right hon. Gentleman make inquiry into the matter? Or will he allow me to give him my own experience of the line?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I have already placed myself in communication with the company, with the result stated in my answer. If the hon. Member assures me that the Order is not complied with I will further inquire.

MR. WEIR: I do.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I should like it in writing.

MR. WEIR: Certainly.

LIGHT RAILWAYS IN HIGHLAND CROFTING COUNTIES.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that only two light railways have so far been constructed in the six Highland crofting counties under the terms of the Light Railways Act, 1896, and that many of the proposed light railways, for which the Secretary for Scotland long since granted certificates on the ground that they are necessary means of communication between fishery harbours and the interior of the country, and cannot be constructed without special assistance from the State, have been abandoned by the promoters owing to the terms of the Act; and, in view of the difficulty experienced in obtaining local aid for the construction of such railways in the Highlands, will the Government consider the expediency of so amending the Act as to admit of effect being given to the recommendations of the Secretary for Scotland.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The first paragraph of the hon. Member's question does not correctly state the facts. No light railway has been constructed in the crofting counties under the Act of 1896. Under that Act, however, four light railways have been authorised, while two have been constructed under special Acts. I am not aware what difficulties the hon. Member refers to as having been experienced by promoters in consequence of the terms of the Act, nor am I at present satisfied that there is any necessity for an amendment of the law prescribing the conditions upon which grants are made.

ARMAGH TO KINGSCOURT RAILWAY.

MR. DALY (Monaghan, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the promoters of the railway from Armagh to Kingscourt have sold their rights, acquired under an Act passed last year, for making this line to the Great Northern Railway Company; whether he can say how much these rights were sold for; and whether he will take steps to prevent an arrangement between these promoters and the Great Northern Railway which, if carried out, would give a monopoly to the Great Northern Railway Company in the north-east portion of Ireland.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The Board have been informed on behalf of the promoters of the Kingscourt, Keady, and Armagh Bill of this session that the working agreement which it is proposed to authorise by the Bill—between the Kingscourt, Keady and Armagh Company and the Great Northern Railway Company—will be scheduled to the Bill. I have not seen the proposed agreement, but it will no doubt be laid before the Parliamentary Committee to which the Bill is referred, and the questions raised by the hon. Member are for the consideration of that Committee rather than for the Board of Trade.

REMOVAL OF BRITISH FACTORIES TO THE UNITED STATES.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he will furnish a Return showing the number of manufacturing works removed from this country to the United States, specifying the nature of the manufacture and the causes for the removal.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: It would not be practicable to obtain accurate information with regard to the subject referred to in the question, and I could not, therefore, undertake to furnish the Return which he desires.

SHEFFIELD FILE TRADE WITH RUSSIA.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he is aware that some firms in Sheffield have been compelled by the Russian duties to erect factories in Russia to sell files and other goods in that empire, and if the Government proposes to take steps to check the migration of factories, capital, machinery, and skilled manufacturers from this country to the United States, Russia, France, Spain, Italy, Germany, and other countries.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I am aware that it is stated that certain firms at Sheffield are about to erect branch factories or branch establishments in Russia, but I am not prepared to propose any steps in the direction indicated by the hon. Member.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet): May I ask whether the Chancellor of the Exchequer will not take some steps in his Budget?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: That question had better be addressed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS.

Mr. HENRY HOBHOUSE (Somersetshire, East): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education if he is aware that the Returns of evening continuation schools, granted for several years past, fail to show the total amounts spent on evening schools by the various authorities aiding those schools; if he can grant a more complete Return of particulars with regard to evening schools, including those inspected from Whitehall and those inspected from South Kensington; and if, now that the Science and Art Department is merged in the Board of Education, there is any longer any reason for a dual administration of grants to evening schools.

*The VICE-PRESIDENT of the BOARD of EDUCATION (Sir J. Gorst, Cambridge University): I am aware that the present Returns are imperfect. They embrace only those schools and parts of schools which are working under the Evening Continuation Schools Code, and omit the schools and parts of schools working under the Directory of the Board of Education. If the hon. Member will confer with me, I will do my best to add such particulars to the Return as he desires. I am not aware of any reason for the continuance of the dual administration.

WINNINGTON PARK SCHOOL—COUNTY COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIPS.

Sir JOHN BRUNNER (Cheshire, Northwich): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether, in view of the fact that certain children who have obtained county council scholarships at Winnington Park School, in Cheshire, and are now attending higher grade schools in Manchester, will under the Minute of 6th April, 1900, be obliged to leave these schools at the end of the current term, having reached the age of fifteen without having worked out their scholarships, and, in view of the fact that these are not isolated cases, His Majesty's Government will consider the desirability of modifying the Code by extending the limit of age in the case of children holding county council and other similar scholarships to 16, 17, or, as in the case of Scotland, to 18 years.

*Sir J. GORST: I am not aware of any school in Manchester which is under the higher elementary schools Minute, and I doubt the existence of any such case of hardship as is referred to in the Question; but if the hon. Member will give me particulars of any such case I will inquire into it.

EDUCATION OF DEAF AND DUMB CATHOLIC CHILDREN.

Lord EDMUND TALBOT (Sussex, Chichester): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education if the school authority of any district supplies a public elementary school suitable for the elementary education of blind or deaf children for such district under Section 2 of the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893; has the Roman Catholic parent of such a child the right under that Act to refuse to have his child educated at such a school, and to require the school authority to send it to a certified Roman Catholic institution, and contribute to its maintenance while there.

*Sir J. GORST: I am reluctant to express any opinion on a general question; but I have been advised that the fact that a school authority has itself supplied a school for the education of deaf and blind children does not of itself entitle the school authority to insist on the child being sent to that school if the parent of the child selects some other place of instruction. But the selection must be a reasonable one (see Section 10 (2) of the Act); and the question whether the selection was or was not reasonable would have to be decided on the merits of each particular case.

JUSTICES' OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mr. LAMBERT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in view of the inconvenience caused by existing requirements, he has taken His Majesty's pleasure as to issuing an order under Section 2 of the

Promissory Oaths Act, 1871, enabling justices to take the oath of allegiance and the judicial oath before any two justices in petty sessions assembled.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. Jesse COLLINGS, Birmingham, Bordesley): The King's pleasure has been taken on this matter, and His Majesty has been pleased to appoint that any oaths required to be taken by county justices who were appointed to their offices by virtue of commissions issued in the reign of Her late Majesty may be taken before the justice acting as chairman at the sitting of any petty sessional court of the county for which such commissions were issued respectively.

DEATH SENTENCES FOR INFANTICIDE.

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in cases of infanticide, the judge has no option but to pass the sentence of death upon the guilty person; and, if this be so, whether he contemplates any change in the law.

MR. JESSE COLLINGS (for Mr. RITCHIE): There is no alternative sentence in cases of child murder. The Secretary of State does not contemplate any alteration of the law.

TITHE AVERAGES.

COLONEL MILWARD (Warwickshire, Stratford-upon-Avon): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he is aware that dissatisfaction exists amongst tithe owners as to the system by which the tithe averages are ascertained; and whether he will cause inquiry to be made upon this subject.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): I am aware that some tithe owners complain that under the Act the average price is too low, on the ground that a good deal of the best grain is not sold in the specified markets and therefore does not enter into the Returns. The tithepayers, on the other hand, say that a good deal of inferior corn is similarly not sold in these markets and the average price is thus unduly raised. The whole system of commutation was, however, from the first based on the principle of taking into account only the corn actually sold to specified classes of purchasers in particular markets. If my hon. friend can show that the existing markets are not fairly representative, inquiry shall be made—but a revision was only made as recently as 1st January last. If my hon. friend can give specific instances of neglect to make returns of all the corn sold in accordance with the Act, or of failure in any respect to carry out the provisions of the law by any of the returning markets, I shall be glad to have inquiry made.

IMPORTS OF INFERIOR TEA.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if his attention has been drawn to the quantities of inferior and unwholesome teas imported into this country which are alleged to contain microbial products dangerous to health; whether the inspectors of the Board have power to seize, analyse, and condemn such teas, and to what extent such powers are exercised; and if, in the interests of public health, he is willing to institute an inquiry into the best methods of checking the sale of such unwholesome teas by determining some minimum standard of purity, and by securing a proper analysis of such teas before they are blended with other teas.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): The Local Government Board have no definite information as regards the matters referred to in the first paragraph of the question. Under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1899, the Board may in certain circumstances direct an officer to procure samples of tea for analysis. The result of the analysis is to be communicated to the local authority, and thereupon it becomes the duty of the authority to cause proceedings to be taken just as if they had caused the analysis to be made. The Public Health Acts contain provisions under which articles of food which appear to be unwholesome or unfit for the food of man can be dealt with by officers of local authorities. I am not at present aware of sufficient reason for any such inquiry as that suggested.

VACCINATION OF PAUPER CHILDREN.

MR. GODDARD (Ipswich): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether officials appointed by a board of guardians are or are not under the immediate control of the board of guardians appointing them; and, whether the superintendent of a home under the board of guardians can cause the children in such home to be vaccinated independently of the wishes of the parents or the guardians.

*MR. WALTER LONG: The duties of the more important officers of a board of guardians are prescribed by statute and by regulations made by the Local Government Board or their predecessors. The regulations generally contain a provision to the effect that the officer is to obey the lawful orders and directions of the guardians applicable to his office. The view of the Board is that under ordinary circumstances a child in an institution such as that referred to in the question should not be vaccinated if the parent or—in the case of an orphan or deserted child—the guardians object.

POOR LAW MEDICAL RELIEF AND THE FRANCHISE.

MR. H. J. WILSON (Yorkshire, W.R., Holmfirth): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that electors are disfranchised if they or members of their family dependent upon them are treated as patients in a workhouse hospital, even though the guardians of the poor receive full payment from the elector or his friends for the cost of treatment; and that the same disfranchisement takes place if, owing to lack of hospital accommodation, the municipality arranges with the guardians for infectious cases for which the municipality is responsible to be treated at the workhouse hospital, and the municipality pays to the guardians the full cost of such treatment; and whether the Government will take steps to prevent such disfranchisement taking place

*MR. WALTER LONG: I am not aware that the allegation contained in the first paragraph of the question is correct. I have no authority to determine whether an elector is disfranchised under any of the conditions referred to in the question, or to take any steps in the matter; but, so far as I am able to form an opinion, a person would not be disfranchised in the circumstances stated.

THE WORKHOUSE DIETARY ORDER.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea District): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that the new dietary order which it is intended to put in force in all the workhouses of the country on the 25th of March next is causing dissatisfaction among poor law authorities, both on the ground of the expense which will be involved and of the unpreparedness of the officials; whether he is aware that resolutions have been passed by the majority of boards asking for a suspension of the operation of the Order until the 29th of September next, and that this request has been unanimously endorsed by the Poor Law Unions Association in meeting assembled and by deputation to the Local Government Board; and whether, having regard to these circumstances, his Department can see its way to comply with the wishes of poor law authorities and their officials in the matter.

*MR. WALTER LONG: As a result of the deputation referred to by the hon. Member, a conference has taken place between officers of the Board and representatives of the Poor Law Unions Association, when the points which the Association wished to raise in connection with the Order were discussed. After the discussion there did not appear to be anything to necessitate the postponement of the date on which the Order is to come into operation, and the Board informed the Association on the 13th instant that they had decided not to make any postponement. The explanations which the Board have given with regard to the Order have, I think, largely removed any dissatisfaction on the subject. I may add that the Order was issued in October last, so that there has been ample time to prepare for its taking effect.

COTTAGE HOMES BILL.

MR. JOHN HUTTON (Yorkshire, N.R., Richmond): I beg to ask the Presidentdent of the Local Government Board whether it is his intention to bring in a Bill this session to give effect to the recommendations of the Select Committee on the Cottage Homes Bill, 1899.

*MR. WALTER LONG: Boards of guardians can give effect to the majority of the recommendations of the Select Committee without legislation. As regards others, legislation would be required if fresh powers and duties were to be assigned to county councils, and I do not propose to introduce legislation on this subject at the present time. My right hon. friend and predecessor, in a circular of the 4th August last, called the attention of guardians to their powers in relation to the matters referred to by the Committee, and I have since instructed the inspectors of the Board to report the result of the consideration of the circular by guardians. In particular, whenever the opportunity has occurred I have pressed on the guardians the desirability of taking children out of the workhouse.

FOOD PRESERVATIVES—BORAX.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, seeing that Professor Thorpe stated in his evidence before the Royal Commission on Arsenic in Beer and Food that he had found no borax of commerce free from arsenic, the Departmental Committee now engaged in setting up standards of purity under Clause 4 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1900, will take cognisance of this evidence, and prohibit the use of borax as a preservative.

MR. WALTER LONG: I presume that the hon. Member refers to the Departmental Committee appointed by my predecessor to inquire into the use of preservatives. That Committee has not at present reported, and it will be competent for them to take into consideration any evidence they may think fit. If it should appear that mixing borax with any article of food renders it injurious to health, a person so mixing it with intent that the article may be sold in that state would be liable to proceedings under the existing law.

MR. JOYCE: Is Dr. Thorpe the principal chemist in the Government Analytical Department at Somerset House?

MR. WALTER LONG: He is, of course.

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether any, and if so what, test of knowledge of the diseases of animals is required from candidates before being appointed medical officers of health.

MR. WALTER LONG: No test of the kind referred to is required by law.

MR. FIELD: Will you suggest that such a test be required in the future?

MR. WALTER LONG: There is no legal enactment under which it can be required.

MR. FIELD: Is it not possible to amend the law?

[No answer was given.]

INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether the Local Government Board makes the appointment of a candidate as inspector of nuisances, which officer has among other duties to seize unsound meat, conditional on his possessing satisfactory knowledge of the diseases of animals likely to render the flesh unfit for human food, as well as a satisfactory knowledge of the characters of sound and unsound meat; and, if such a standard of knowledge is obligatory, when it was adopted.

MR. WALTER LONG: The reply to the first paragraph of the question is in the negative. The Royal Commission on Tuberculosis recommended that meat inspectors should possess certain qualifications. The Local Government Board have drawn the attention of councils of boroughs and other urban districts to this subject with a view to their giving effect to the recommendations as far as practicable.

MR. FIELD: How far have the recommendations been carried out?

Mr. LONG: I am afraid I cannot answer that question. A great many appointments have been made.

TELEPHONE DISTRICTS.

Mr. M'KENNA: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether, since the agreement with the National Telephone Company in 1896, any telephone district included in that agreement has been transferred from one telephone exchange area to another.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY to the TREASURY (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.): In the interval between the execution of the agreement with the National Telephone Company in 1896 and the appointment of the Select Committee on Telephones in 1898 the transfer of a district from one telephone area to another was authorised in several cases, particulars of which will be found in Appendix No. 35 to the Report of the Select Committee. Certain of these alterations were embodied in a formal deed dated the 15th February, 1899, but no other transfer has been authorised since the appointment of the Select Committee.

Mr. M'KENNA: Has any transfer been applied for except the one I made?

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I do not know.

PROMOTION IN THE MANCHESTER POST OFFICE.

Mr. SCHWANN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether his attention has been called to the case of a telegraphist in the Manchester Post Office who, on the 8th September, 1900, was promoted to the position of clerk, filling a vacancy which had occurred in December, 1899, in which case the back pay then given to the telegraphist has had to be refunded, the promotion having since been dated from the 1st September, 1900; whether the Postmaster General will investigate the principle governing promotions, with a view towards filling vacancies immediately they occur, and date the next officer's promotion from that period; and if he will reconsider the decision as to refunding the back pay referred to.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: In the case referred to, two sorting clerks and telegraphists were promoted to be clerks, and it was intended that the date of promotion should be the 1st September, 1900, that being the date on which the promotions were approved by the Postmaster General; but through an error the 16th December, 1899, was inserted in the papers. When this error was discovered steps were taken to correct it, the officers who had been overpaid £2 17s. each were called on to refund the overpayment; and the Postmaster General regrets that he cannot relieve them of this payment. If these officers had been allowed to benefit by the error committed, they would have ranked above an officer who was properly their senior. The general rule is that promotions shall take effect from the date on which they receive the Postmaster General's approval. Every effort is made to fill vacancies as soon as possible; but the Postmaster General sees no reason for altering the general rule that a promotion should date from the day on which it is made.

LAND COMMISSION (IRELAND) CLERKS.

Mr. YOXALL: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, in view of the fact that three senior assistant clerks, abstracter class, employed in the offices of the Land Commission (Ireland), have for the past two years received an annual increment of £5, which they are still receiving, he can say whether there is any reason why the remainder of the class should not be similarly treated in the matter of increment.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The case of the three clerks referred to is not identical with the remainder of the abstracter class, and I do not think that the treatment in their case can be applied to the rest of the class. But in the case of any abstracter recommended by the head of his department for special service, there is power to advance him in his scale, though without alteration of his rate of increment.

CIVIL SERVICE SUPERANNUATION REGULATIONS.

MR. YOXALL: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether it is still the practice of the Treasury, under Section 3 of the Superannuation Act of 1887, to permit, upon promotion to the establishment, the counting of all continuous temporary service rendered prior to establishment, as if the entire service of a similar character had been rendered upon the establishment.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: There has been no change in the practice of the Treasury. By the provisions of Section 3 of the Superannuation Act of 1887 the power of the Treasury to reckon temporary service for pension is expressly limited to cases in which they consider that the special circumstances warrant such a course.

CARLOWAY AND STORNOWAY ROAD, ISLAND OF LEWIS.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the Congested Districts Board have yet made provision for the construction of the middle section of the road between Carloway and Stornoway, Island of Lewis; and, if not, will he state what steps it is proposed to take to complete this road.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): No provision has been made for the purpose referred to in the question of the hon. Member, and no steps are in contemplation.

NAVIGATION CLASSES IN SCOTTISH EVENING SCHOOLS.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he will state how many scholars in the whole of Scotland attended classes in navigation at evening schools during the year ending 31st December, 1900; and will he state how many of these scholars attended navigation classes in the six Highland crofting counties.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I am unable to give the information desired for the year ended 31st December, 1900, because that date is in the middle of the winter course, and does not represent the natural close of a session of evening school work. The Returns for the evening school session of 1899–1900 show that navigation was taught in seventeen departments in the following Highland crofting counties: Argyll, 7; Inverness, 3; Ross, 1; Shetland, 6. The total number of scholars taught in these seventeen departments was 321.

GREENOCK SCHOOL BOARD PRIZES.

MR. J. F. X. O'BRIEN (Cork): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether he is aware that Greenock School Board provides prizes out of the public rate for the children attending the schools under their charge, which are really denominational in the sense that the Presbyterian religion is taught; and, whether, in these circumstances, he is prepared to instruct that a share of the prizes purchased by the Board be given all Government-inspected schools in proportion to the average attendance.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I am aware that the School Board of Greenock, like many school boards in Scotland, provide prizes for children in attendance at the public schools out of the school fund. I know of nothing in the Education Acts which would warrant the payment from the school fund of prizes to children in attendance at other than public schools.

MR. J. F. X. O'BRIEN: But is this rule fair to the Catholic children?

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I think so. It would be an entirely new departure to take the rates for the purpose suggested.

MR. J. F. X. O'BRIEN: But is not the Greenock School practically a denominational school?

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: That is a matter of argument.

MR. J. F. X. O'BRIEN: Ought not the rule to be abandoned as unjust to Catholic children, and the prizes provided by private people?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is now arguing the question.

INVER—DISFRANCHISEMENT OF HOUSEHOLDERS.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether he is aware that between sixty and seventy householders in Inver, Ross-shire, representing almost the entire village, are disfranchised in consequence of the landlord having failed to pay the rates, in accordance with an arrangement which these tenants show he entered into with them some time back; and, in view of the fact that as matters now stand the rates fall more heavily on the rest of the district, will the Secretary for Scotland say what steps he proposes to take in the matter.

*Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I have made inquiry through the Local Government Board, and am informed that that Department has no knowledge of any such arrangement as is alleged in the hon. Member's question. In any view such an arrangement would be a matter of private paction between the landlord and tenant. So far as the rate collector is concerned he is bound to take the valuation roll as it stands and there is no room for any action by the Secretary for Scotland in the matter.

MAIDSTONE ELECTION PETITION.

Mr. JOHN ELLIS: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General when the shorthand writer's notes of evidence respecting the recent election petition at Maidstone will be laid upon the Table and distributed.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs): The notes were laid on the Table some days ago. If there is any general desire that they shall be printed, I will give the necessary instructions.

SNEEM PIER.

Mr. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Congested Districts Board and the shipping companies interested took steps to procure the erection of a goods store on Sneem Pier, county Kerry, but were prevented from carrying out this work by the action of the landlord; can he say at what date this opposition was offered; and will the Irish Government take the necessary steps to secure the erection of the store, and thus meet a want whereby inconvenience and loss of trade have been occasioned.

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. Wyndham, Dover): The Congested Districts Board was willing to erect an open shed on the quay at Sneem, as an alternative for a goods store on adjoining land, which the owners, so recently as September last, stated it was their intention to build. I cannot say if the shipping companies proposed to erect a store on the pier. I am making further inquiries.

DERRIQUIN CASTLE SHOOTING PARTY.

Mr. BOLAND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a shooting party was held at Derriquin Castle, county Kerry, in which some officers of the Royal Irish Constabulary took part, on 20th November, 1900, and that members of the party fired from the public road; and will an investigation into the circumstances of the case be held.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The shot was not fired by either of the two police officers present on the occasion, but by a Swiss gentleman who acted in ignorance of the law. No damage was done, and it is not proposed to take any action in the matter.

IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT—ASSISTANT COUNTY SURVEYORS.

Mr. DALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has removed or superseded the officers of the Local Government Board who tried to oblige county councils in Ireland to pay assistant county surveyors in some cases eighty per cent. increased salaries; whether he is aware that the interference of the Local Government Board in the matter prevented the officials transferred to the county councils from being reasonably dealt with, and has caused friction and expense; and, if he will prevent such action on behalf of the Local Government Board in future, or if he will appoint some other person to look after the affairs of the Department.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Court of Appeal did not question the power of the Board to fix these salaries, but traversed the method adopted in fixing them. I would remind the hon. Member that this question can be discussed on the Appropriation Bill.

IRISH POOR LAW MEDICAL OFFICERS —HOLIDAYS.

MR. DALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has called for the resignation of those officials connected with the Local Government Board who have been compelling boards of guardians in Ireland to give compulsorily four weeks holidays to medical officers previous to the decision of the Court of King's Bench in this matter; and, whether, seeing that this order cost the boards of guardians about £10,000, he will direct a refund.

MR. WYNDHAM: The reply to both paragraphs is in the negative.

TRAINED NURSES IN WORKHOUSE HOSPITALS.

MR. DALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, having regard to the difficulty that boards of guardians in Ireland have in obtaining trained nurses according to the standard laid down by the Local Government Board, and seeing that in the county infirmaries there are, throughout Ireland, a number of experienced nurses who have acquired their training in these institutions, he will permit nurses so trained to compete for the position of trained nurse in workhouse hospitals and other hospitals in Ireland.

MR. WYNDHAM: As at present advised, the Local Government Board is not prepared to relax its standard for trained nurses. I am glad to say that in ninety-six workhouses the guardians have already appointed nurses with the qualifications prescribed.

CARRICKMACROSS WORKHOUSE DIETARY.

MR. DALY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Local Government Board obliged the Carrickmacross Board of Guardians to increase the cost of the dietary of the inmates of the workhouse by 30 per cent.; and that when the visiting committee interviewed the inmates on the change of dietary the inmates preferred the old to the new dietary, though the latter will cost the ratepayers about £300 per annum of an increase upon the rates; and whether he will permit the medical officer and the guardians to vary the dietary in Carrickmacross workhouse.

MR. WYNDHAM: The fact is not correctly stated in the first part of the question. The Board has not laid down any fixed rule as regards the dietary of workhouse inmates beyond the minimum scale prescribed in 1849. The Board suggested a revision of the existing dietaries on more varied lines, so far as children and the infirm and lunatic classes were concerned. The clerk of the union states that the cost of the dietary of the inmates has increased by 14 per cent., and that the total cost to the ratepayers will be less than one half of the sum stated in the question. It is open to the guardians and the medical officer to vary the dietary of any class of inmates, provided the scale is not below that approved by the Local Government Board.

DROMARD PETTY SESSIONS—DISTRICT INSPECTOR CLAYTON.

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL (Armagh, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that District Inspector Clayton, of Banbridge, does not attend Dromard petty sessions in accordance with Code Section 1356; and how many times he has attended these petty sessions during the last five years, and how does he account for his neglect of duty to the Inspector General in his quarterly Return No. 8.

MR. WYNDHAM: There has been no neglect of duty on the part of this officer, as suggested. The regulations require him to attend petty sessions when not otherwise engaged on more urgent duty. He has attended these petty sessions on seventeen occasions in the past five years. His absence from the sessions has been satisfactorily accounted for.

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL: Is it the fact that this officer spends the greater part of his time playing hockey, and other games?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

CASTLEBAR DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM.

DR. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Local Government Board auditor has certified that the sum of £1,359 17s. 4d. is due by the Treasury to the committee of management of the Castlebar District Lunatic Asylum for the maintenance of patients for the quarter ending 31st March, 1899, being the contribution of the Treasury as the rate-in-aid; and if he can explain why the Treasury has not paid this amount.

The following question also appeared on the Paper:—

MR. HAMMOND (Carlow): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, in view of the fact that it has been certified that the Carlow District Asylum is entitled to payment of £884 11s. 4d.—namely, Carlow county £365 9s. 10d., Kildare county £519 1s. 6d., rate-in-aid for the three months ending 31st March, 1899, and as this debt has not been paid, whether he will arrange to have the liability discharged within the next four weeks.

MR. WYNDHAM: The subject matter of these questions has been already dealt with by me in answer to similar questions concerning other asylums, and I have nothing to add to my replies to these questions. A better opportunity for discussing the matter will arise either on the Appropriation Bill or the Estimates.

KILMALLOCK DISTRICT COUNCIL—LABOURERS' COTTAGES.

MR. LUNDON (Limerick, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the inquiry of the Local Government Board inspector in regard to the present scheme for the erection of labourers' cottages under the Labourers Acts in the Kilmallock District Council, in the county of Limerick, was held as far back as June in 1900, but that the Provisional Order has not yet been placed in the hands of the Kilmallock councillors; can he state the cause of the delay; and, will he give instructions to expedite the proceedings, so that the district councillors may be enabled to provide the cottages and plots early enough for the labourers to cultivate the ground.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Provisional Order was made by the Local Government Board on the 28th ultimo, and copies have been sent to the Rural District Council.

RENTS IN COUNTY LIMERICK.

MR. LUNDON: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to a resolution from the Kilmallock (county Limerick) District Council, passed at their sitting in Limerick, protesting against the decision of the Chief Land Commissioners in raising the rents, over the heads of the sub-Commissioners, in forty per cent. of the cases tried before them, and expressing their conviction that until a compulsory Land Purchase Bill is passed there will be neither peace nor contentment in Ireland; and whether he is prepared to introduce any such legislation as will give expression to these views.

MR. WYNDHAM: The answer to the first paragraph is yes, and to the second paragraph no.

SHILLELAGH UNION INQUIRY.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the guardians of the Shillelagh Union have protested against the appointment of Dr. Edgar Flinn to hold an inquiry into certain charges made against Dr. Bolster, medical officer of the Tinahely dispensary district, and whether he will advise the Local Government

Board to have the inquiry conducted by some other inspector.

MR. WYNDHAM: Dr. Flinn is the Medical Inspector of the district in question, and, since he has done nothing to forfeit the confidence of the Local Government Board, I see no reason for relieving him from the duty of holding the inquiry into the charges against Dr. Boster.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: Is it not the fact that he has lost the confidence of the Irish public?

[No answer was returned.]

ELECTRO-CULTURE OF POTATOES IN IRELAND.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland will he state what was the result of the investigation by Mr. David MacLurg, representative of Professor Thomas Carroll, official of the Agricultural Board, into the experiment of Mr. Martin O Sullivan, of Athea, county Limerick, in electro-culture of potatoes, held on the 2nd and 3rd October last; and whether, seeing that Mr David MacLurg on the 4th October last photographed two heaps of potatoes, one four times the weight of the other representing the relative produce in large or table potatoes, of the experimented and non-experimented plots selected by Professor Carroll on the 24th September last, will he state whether, if the experiment has been a success, the Agricultural Board will act on it in the public interest.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Department of Agriculture is not satisfied that the experiment referred to is a success, and is not in a position to act on it in the public interest. The Department, however, proposes to cause a test to be made this season under its own supervision with a view to settle the question.

SALES OF ESTATES IN IRELAND.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland is he able to state what is the number of estates coming within the provisions of the Landed Estates Court (Ireland) Act, 1858, and listed for sale in the years 1899 and 1900, in which insurance companies are petitioners; also what number of these have been sold under the 40th Section of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1896, and in how many cases has the sale been frustrated or fallen through, and why.

MR. WYNDHAM replied that he was not prepared to grant a Return.

LOUGH NEAGH DRAINAGE.

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Upper and Lower Bann and Lough Neagh Drainage Works have entirely failed to preserve the waters of Lough Neagh at their proper summer and winter levels; whether, seeing that the expenses of the Drainage Trustees amounts to £1,100 per annum, while the revenues therefrom are only £70 per annum, he will consider the advisability of giving a controlling power in the matter to the councils around Lough Neagh; and whether, seeing that the tenants of the flooded lands have already paid £155,000 towards these unsuccessful drainage works, he will promptly introduce a measure to provide for the effective drainage of the area round Lough Neagh, the cost of such scheme to be defrayed by Parliament.

MR. WYNDHAM: In answer to the first and third paragraphs, I must refer to my reply to the question of the hon. Member for East Cavan on the 7th inst.* The proposal in the second paragraph is one that would require consideration; under Section 20 of the Local Government Act, 1898, the county councils are empowered to take over the business of a drainage board, with its consent, under a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board.

LABOURERS (IRELAND) ACTS.

MR. JORDAN (Fermanagh, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether a labourer living in a cottage not under a Labourers' Cottage Scheme, but which is the property of the farmer on whose land it is built, can claim as a matter of right the usual allowance of land under the Labourers Acts.

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* See preceding volume of *Debates*, page 820.

MR. WYNDHAM: The reply to this question is in the negative.

IRISH WORKHOUSE NURSES.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has yet obtained a Report from the Local Government Board on the subject of making grants to assist boards of guardians to have young girls trained as properly qualified nurses, so as to avoid the expense of complying with the Board's new rule to employ as nurses, assistant or otherwise, only those who have been trained in a recognised hospital.

MR. WYNDHAM: I find that the Local Government Board has no funds for this purpose, and that legislation would be needed. I am looking further into the matter.

MULLINGAR DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to a report of the last meeting of the Joint Committee of Mullingar District Lunatic Asylum, at which it was stated that the estimate for maintenance of this asylum had advanced from £14,362 in 1897 to £33,076 in 1901; whether complaint was made that no inspector of asylums attends the meetings of the board, although a report has just been made by Sir George P. O'Farrell, lunacy inspector, practically exonerating the officials from the charges made by the committee that the management of the asylum was conducted on extravagant lines, and this without hearing evidence on behalf of the committee; and whether he will direct a departmental inquiry into the increase of expenditure, with a view to giving the committee the right to press their charges to a definite conclusion.

MR. WYNDHAM: The sum of £33,076, the estimated expenditure for 1901–2, will be reduced by the capitation grant, amounting to about £8,000. Moreover, the number of patients in the asylum has increased in the same period from 712 to 832; there has been an increase in the amount required for repayment for asylum loans, and for the purchase of provisions. The inspectors attend such meetings when requested to do so, but no request was made in this case. Any inquiry of the nature suggested in the third paragraph should properly be held by the committee of management, but if the committee applies for an inquiry by the inspectors the matter will be considered.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the committee of inquiry has already sat, and that its report was upset by the subsequent report of Sir George O'Farrell?

MR. WYNDHAM: The inspectors have nothing to do with the cost of maintenance. They are called on to report on the well-being and treatment of the inmates.

IRISH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL AUDITS.

MR. KENNEDY (Westmeath, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state by what authority rural district councils are now charged fees for audit by the Local Government Board of accounts which were audited free of charge previous to their transfer by statute from the boards of guardians; and whether the only business in respect of which those councils now receive or pay money is that so transferred.

MR. WYNDHAM: The authority is contained in Article 19, paragraph 2, of the Application of Enactments Order, 1898. The business transferred is that of boards of guardians acting as rural sanitary authorities. Prior to the transfer no charge was made for the audit of the accounts of poor law guardians. The rural sanitary authorities thus escaped, unlike the urban sanitary authorities, who were assessed annually as at present.

MR. KENNEDY: Is this a new tax imposed on Ireland by the Local Government Act, 1898?

MR. WYNDHAM replied in the affirmative.

WESTPORT PETTY SESSIONS—CASE OF WIDOW SALMON.

MR. JOHN O'DONNELL (Mayo, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to certain statements made by Mr. Starkie, R.M., at the Westport petty sessions recently, to the effect that a man named Scahill, who was three times convicted for assaulting Mrs. Salmon, was convicted and sent to prison on evidence concocted for that purpose; and to the statement of Mr. Starkie that, although he was one of the magistrates who convicted him, he afterwards heard from high authority that there was not a word of truth in the whole case, and that he was aware that a witness could be produced that could have sworn that Scahill had not said a word on the occasion; and whether inquiry will be made as to who is the high authority to whom Mr. Starkie referred, and into all the circumstances connected with the dispute between the widow Salmon and the man who got her holding.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): Perhaps I may be allowed to reply to this question. The statement in the first paragraph is substantially accurate, save that Scahill does not appear to have been convicted of assault on Mrs. Salmon, but was sent to prison in default of finding sureties to keep the peace for the alleged use of threatening language towards her, and that Mr. Starkie used the words "good authority," not "high authority." It is to be regretted that Mr. Starkie used this language upon hearsay in reference to a previous decision which, based as it was on the evidence at the time before the court, he considered satisfactory. Under these circumstances it is not proposed to make the inquiry suggested.

MR. JOHN O'DONNELL: May I ask whether in future resident magistrates cannot find better employment than in trying to whitewash land grabbers?

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): How many times has this widow been sent to gaol for attending to her holding?

[No answer was given.]

PORTADOWN DISTURBANCES.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether on the 19th August last the Roman Catholic Young Men's Association of Portadown communicated with the local police authorities with a view to their affording protection to a body of Roman Catholics who proposed to go on an excursion to Bundoran on the 26th of that month; whether a similar communication was made on the 25th August, 1900, to the Under Secretary, Dublin Castle; whether any special protection was in consequence accorded to the excursionists referred to on the last-mentioned date, when several of them were brutally assaulted and injured; whether on the 22nd September, 1900, the Roman Catholic Association wrote complaining of the failure to give the protection called for, and making certain suggestions for the future preservation of the peace in Portadown; whether any answer, other than a mere acknowledgment of the receipt of the communication of the 22nd September, has ever been given to the association; will he explain why the last two appeals to the Castle from the association, including a letter to the right hon. Gentleman himself, have been left without any answer; and whether he will lay the correspondence upon the Table.

MR. WYNDHAM: The answer to the first and second paragraphs is in the affirmative. Special precautions were taken to afford protection to the excursion on the 26th August; it is much to be regretted, however, that an attack was made on the party when it was leaving in the morning which resulted in injuries to several persons, and also when the party was returning at night. Many persons were prosecuted for participating in the disturbances; seven were imprisoned for terms varying from fourteen days to two months, two were bound to the peace, and thirty-five were fined. The letter of 22nd September was duly acknowledged, and towards the end of January I myself received a similar communication from the association. These communications received my own personal attention, and careful inquiries satisfied me that everything was being done to preserve the peace, and that there was no foundation whatever for the charges of partiality preferred by the association against the resident magistrate and district inspector. I do not propose to lay the correspondence on the Table.

MR. CLANCY: As a matter of fact, was there any increase of the police force on that occasion?

MR. WYNDHAM: I do not think that that quite arises out of the question. I have admitted that the force was inadequate, and have stated that steps are being taken to secure adequate protection in the future.

MR. CLANCY: But the right hon. Gentleman said special protection. I want to know if a single extra man was put on.

MR. WYNDHAM: The question does not ask how many extra men were put on.

MR. CLANCY: I ask that now.

[No answer was returned.]

MR. CLANCY: Will the right hon. Gentleman say why he took no notice of two letters addressed to him?

MR. WYNDHAM: I have said that their receipt was acknowledged and that I gave my personal attention to the matter.

BELFAST VALUATION.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he will grant a Return of the old valuations and the new valuations recently made in Belfast by the Irish Valuation Commission.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: There are 85,000 rateable hereditaments in Belfast, and I do not think that the value of the Return would be sufficient to justify the labour and expense which it would involve.

MR. FIELD: Then the reply is in the negative?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Yes, on the grounds I have stated.

IRISH LIGHTS BOARD.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the Irish Lights Commissioners are allowed £400 per annum for refreshments; whether such allowance is usual in public boards; and whether it will be continued to the Irish Lights Board.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: Yes, Sir, I am aware that an annual sum of £400 has for many years been allowed by the Board of Trade to meet the housekeeping expenses of the Commissioners of Irish Lights. This amount covers the costs incurred by the Committee on the annual tour of inspection round the coast of Ireland, as well as the weekly luncheon on Board days. Having regard to the fact that the Commissioners receive no personal remuneration or allowance, I see no reason for refusing my sanction to this expenditure.

AN HON. MEMBER: Have the Government any intention to give representation on this Board to the various harbour authorities in Ireland who desire it?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That does not arise out of the question about refreshments.

MR. FIELD: How long does the annual tour round the coast of Ireland take?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I must ask for notice.

MAIDEN ROCKS, LARNE.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can state the reason for the delay in not carrying out the improvements and alterations at the Maiden Rocks, near Larne, by the Irish Lights Commissioners, as arranged with the Trinity Board, and with the Belfast applications to have the lights and buoys at these rocks completed.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I am informed by the Commissioners of Irish Lights that the improvements as to the light and buoys at the Maiden Rocks have been delayed owing to the need of making certain experiments. It is not anticipated that there will be any further delay as regards the light. As regards the buoys, the Commissioners hope to place a buoy at the Highland Rock as an experiment in June next; while a decision as to the buoy at the Hunters Rock has been deferred pending the consideration of a suggestion made by the Advisory Committee on New Lighthouse Works, that a lighted buoy should be placed there.

LAND PURCHASE IN COUNTY WEXFORD.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he can state when the House will be informed as to the intentions of the Government with regard to land purchase in Ireland; and whether he will consider the advisability of making a statement upon the subject at an early date, seeing that land purchase in County Wexford is now stopped.

MR. FFRENCH (Wexford, S.): At the same time may I ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, with regard to the sales that are pending in County Wexford under the Land Purchase Acts where agreements have been lodged with the Commissioners, where the security has been or will be approved of by the inspector of the Land Commission, the Government will direct the Treasury to supply whatever money may be necessary to carry out these sales; and, if not, can he say at what time funds are likely to be forthcoming to enable the sale of land in Wexford to proceed.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The position of Wexford in regard to land purchase is undoubtedly a serious one, and is engaging the attention of the Government. I cannot at present make any announcement on the subject, but if the hon. Gentleman will put the question after Easter I may be in a position to give a definite reply.

FINANCIAL RELATIONS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he can state what steps he proposes to take to inquire into the question of the Financial Relations between Great Britain and Ireland.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have no communication to make to the House.

IRISH BOARD OF WORKS—NEW CHAIRMAN.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he is yet in a position to say who is the new chairman of the Board of Works, what are his qualifications for the office, and will he state what is the term of his engagement and what is his salary.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The name of the new chairman of the Irish Board of Works is Mr. G. C. Holmes, who, until recently, was secretary to the Institute of Naval Architects and formerly with the London and North-Western Railway Company. Mr. Holmes is an acknowledged authority on the works of engineering. His salary will be £1,500 a year, and his engagement is that of a Civil servant under the ordinary conditions.

MR. CLANCY: Has he ever been in Ireland yet?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not know; but he is there now.

MR. CLANCY: Is it not the fact that of the three members of the Board two are Englishmen?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Well, this will be an exception to the rule.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): Do I understand this gentleman is not an Irishman?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: He is an Irishman.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Does he know anything of the policy pursued by this Board for the last five years? Is it intended he shall carry on that policy? Was any effort made to secure a chairman well acquainted with the policy?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR; Yes, it is proposed to carry on the policy of the Board in connection with public works. In our opinion Mr. Holmes was the best man for the place.

ROYAL DECLARATION AGAINST ROMAN CATHOLICISM.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he can now make any definite statement as to the Committee to be appointed on the subject of the Sovereign's Accession Oath.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I understand that a motion is to be made to-day in another place for the appointment of this Joint Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE POPE OF THE KING'S ACCESSION.

Mr. JOHN CAMPBELL: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he can state whether His Majesty's Government propose to send a special ambassador to the Pope to make the ceremonial announcement as to His Majesty's accession to the Throne in the same manner as is being done in the case of other European Sovereigns.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: It is not proposed to send a special ambassador; but the death of Her late Majesty and the King's accession will be notified by letter.

Mr. JOHN CAMPBELL: Is it not the case that a special ambassador was sent to the Pope at the beginning of the last three reigns?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I am afraid I cannot answer that. I have not got the information.

Mr. WILLIAM JOHNSTON (Belfast, S.): May I ask the right hon. Gentleman if at the commencement of the late reign the Pope was not a temporal sovereign, and that since then he has lost the States of the Church?

[No answer was given.]

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RIGHTS.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can hold out any hope that private Members who have secured favourable places in the ballot for motions on Tuesdays will get any opportunity of discussing the subjects of which they have given Notice of Motion.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: That must depend on the general course of business.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: What about next Tuesday?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: That day we take the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill.

SUPPLY PROCEDURE—PROPOSED COMMITTEE.

Colonel MILWARD: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether it is his intention to appoint a Committee to consider, with a wide reference, the subject of the procedure of the House with regard to Supply, and especially the allocation of the days for the discussion of particular Estimates.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I have more than once expressed to the House my desire to see a small Committee appointed which should advise the Government and the House as to the distribution of the allotted days between the various heads of Supply. My idea of such a Committee would be that it should consist of seven persons, only two being members of the front benches and five independent Members of the House, with a majority of four to three on the side of the Opposition. If the House consented to the appointment of such a Committee, at any rate as an experiment, we should see how it would work. The Committee will only advise as to the allocation of time as among the twenty-three allotted days. It would not be the same Committee as we should have to appoint were it thought desirable to look into the general question of how Supply should be dealt with in the House.

Sir JOHN BRUNNER: Does the right hon. Gentleman suggest that the Committee should be appointed at the beginning of each session and give advice for that particular session, or that the Committee shall provide the allocation for all the sessions of that Parliament?

Mr. BALFOUR: No, Sir. The plan that has always commended itself to my mind is that this Committee should be appointed each session, and should advise, so to speak, week by week as to how the time should be used.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The right hon. Gentleman does not say whether he is going to adopt that plan.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I should not like to adopt it without consultation, but if that should be the general view of the House, I should be very glad to put the proposal on the Paper. I shall be glad to consult the right hon. Gentleman before doing so.

MR. LAMBERT: Will the Committee have the power to say whether the number of days devoted to Supply is sufficient or not?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir. That would have to be done by a quite different body, if it were referred to a Committee at all. If the House thought it was incapable of coming to a decision, and wished the advice of a Committee, it would be a different kind of Committee to the one which would carry out the function I have just indicated.

ISOLATION HOSPITALS.

Bill to amend The Isolation Hospitals Act, 1893, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Long, Mr. Attorney General, and Mr. Grant Lawson.

ISOLATION HOSPITALS BILL.

"To amend The Isolation Hospitals Act, 1893," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 111.]

SUPPLY (NAVY ESTIMATES).

Order for Committee read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair."

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPLAINS IN HIS MAJESTY'S NAVY.

MR. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.) called attention to the position of Roman Catholic chaplains in the Navy. He said this question involved the question of religious equality. He thought no weight of argument was necessary to convince the House of the justice of the claim they advanced on behalf of the Roman Catholic chaplains in the Navy. Surely this was not a very unreasonable demand, when they came to consider the number of Catholics in the Navy. England was supposed to be the home of toleration and religious equality. That had been asserted over and over again, but in the face of recent events—in the face of the fact that His Majesty had to take an oath which was an insult to millions of his subjects, he was afraid that assertion was not justified. Some of the pillars of the Conservative party in that House, or in the other House at least, belonged to the Catholic faith. It was the faith to which the great majority of the Irish people belonged, and really it was disgraceful for a great naval Power, such as England was, to have such a large number of Catholics in the Navy without making provision for having their spiritual wants administered to by the clergymen belonging to their own religion. He believed the proportion of Roman Catholics in the Navy was something over 8 per cent. The Roman Catholics numbered more than the Presbyterians and Wesleyans combined, and really their position as regards chaplains was very unsatisfactory. Some reform should be introduced in regard to this crying grievance. It ought to be redressed, and he appealed to the sense of fair play of hon. Gentlemen on both sides of the House to have it redressed. If it were only to allay Catholic feeling for the insults recently heaped upon them, some reform should be introduced.

When the hon. Member for East Clare introduced this question last year he got some vague assurance that the grievance would be redressed, but he was not aware that anything had been done. He supposed it would be out of order to refer to the fact that prison chaplains had a grievance also, but he merely mentioned in passing that while a Protestant chaplain received a salary of £450 a year, a Roman Catholic chaplain, for performing the same duties and having the same responsibilities, only received £300 a year. Not only in the Navy, but in other branches of the service, the priest, as compared with the minister of other religions, was severely handicapped. It seemed that altogether there were only twenty-one chaplains in the Navy, and counting annual allowances, they received sums varying from £25 to £200. Hon. Gentlemen would see that £25 was rather a small sum to pay the chaplain of any religion. There were only three out of twenty-one receiving £200 a year, which was less by £100 than was received by the Protestant chaplains, who had less duty to perform. No Catholic chaplains were allowed on board ship, so that Roman Catholics might remain for years without seeing a clergyman of their own denomination, and if that was not a matter to be complained of he did not know what was. It was no wonder that Roman Catholic priests warned their flocks against joining the Navy, when these young men were sent away for months, and sometimes years, and had not the comfort of seeing their ministers of religion. A worse aspect of the case was that when the ships were in harbour the sailors were not even allowed to go ashore in order to attend a service in the church. On the occasion of Her late Majesty's funeral a large squadron assembled at Spithead, and on the Sunday none of the Roman Catholic sailors were allowed ashore in order that they might attend divine service. He did not know who was responsible for that, but somebody must have been, and although protest was made at the time, no notice was taken of it. During three years not one of the Roman Catholic sailors of H.M.S. "Excellent" was sent to church, and that was a state of things that ought to be remedied as soon as possible. Now that the Navy was going to be reorganised, in men, armaments, and ships, was the proper time for remedying the crime of which he complained, and no reorganisation would be complete until the status of the Roman Catholics in the Navy was improved.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out from the word 'That,' to the end of the Question, in order to add the words 'in the opinion of this House, Roman Catholic Chaplains in His Majesty's Navy should be placed upon the same footing as regards rank and pay as Chaplains in His Majesty's Army" instead thereof."—(*Mr. O'Dowd.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

MR. JOYCE (Limerick City) said he desired to support the motion of the hon. Member, as he knew something of the disability under which the Roman Catholics in the Navy laboured, whether they were bluejackets or Marines. He had known on many occasions ships of the fleet to be lying in harbour, and when Sunday came round the Roman Catholic sailors were unable, owing to bad weather, to go ashore to church, and were thus debarred from the comforts of the ministration of the ministers of their religion. Every large ship of war had a Protestant chaplain on board, and he contended that if the Government wanted Catholic sailors, stokers, and Marines to man the Navy the least they could do was to provide for the ministrations of their religion. There was a very simple remedy for this crying evil. In the Army regiments had been territorialised, and regiments which were entirely, or almost entirely, composed of Catholics had a Catholic chaplain attached to them. As there were 10,000 or 15,000 Catholics in the Navy, why could not the same principle be applied there? Large bodies of Catholics could be drafted to particular ships to which Catholic chaplains should be appointed. Everybody would admit that a real grievance existed, and if the Admiralty were too bigoted to adopt this remedy, the Catholics of the country ought not to fight the battles of England. More important than that the men could not go to mass on Sundays was the fact that when they were stricken down by grievous sickness, and were at the point of death, it was obligatory upon these men to have the consolations of their religion administered to them, but in the Navy, as at present conducted, it was almost impossible for this to be done. There were a large number of Irish seamen and fishermen in the Royal Naval Reserve who were supposed now and again to go on a six months cruise, but nothing had been done to enable these men to enjoy the benefits arising from the ministration of their religion. For that reason alone many men refused to go on any such cruise, although the money to be thus earned would be very acceptable to them. Was it not time that such a condition of things should be put an end to? We were living in an enlightened age, when such bigoted and fanatical ideas should be exploded, and if Catholic sailors were fit to fight the battles of the country they were surely entitled to the small concession for which the Irish Members were asking.

Sir THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.) desired, as this question affected a large number of his constituents who were members of the Royal Naval Reserve, to support the Nationalist Members who had already spoken. It was time the House had some definite statement from the Admiralty as to what they proposed to do in the matter. The question had been agitated for a considerable time; the Admiralty had received deputations of Irish Members who had laid the matter before them, but up to the present all endeavours in this direction had met with very little success. The provisions hitherto made to meet the requirements of Catholic sailors had not given satisfaction, and the object of the present debate was to get the Secretary to the Admiralty to approach the matter in a clear and broad-minded manner, and see it if was not possible to comply with the legitimate wishes of Catholic sailors in this respect. As far as the circumstances of the Admiralty allowed, definite and permanent regulations should be made for that purpose. One would have thought it would have been in the interest of the Admiralty itself to fall in with this desire of Catholic sailors, as there were various depôts in Ireland—a number of the Royal Naval Reserve came from Ireland—and with the increased number of men to be obtained it was probable that there would be a yet larger demand for religious accommodation for Catholic sailors. He therefore hoped that before the debate closed the House would be given some assurance that the Admiralty proposed to deal with this question seriously; otherwise the Government would hear a great deal more about the matter from the Irish benches.

Mr. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said that if the Government would pass a regulation forbidding any Catholic to enter the Navy he would willingly give an undertaking never to quarrel with that rule or to cause any more bother over this question. But all the while Catholic Irishmen were asked to give their services and to risk their lives in defence of the British Empire the Government were bound to treat them as Christians and human beings. The Government had no right to place them alongside their Protestant fellow-countrymen, and then to refuse to recognise their religious convictions, and decline to grant facilities for the exercise of their religious belief. The question was raised before, twenty-five or thirty years ago, in an eloquent speech by Mr. Alexander Sullivan, but upon certain pledges being given by the Government the subject was allowed to slip, and those promises were never fulfilled. In the year 1896 he himself raised the question on the Admiralty Vote, when Mr. Goschen immediately rose and promised that the Admiralty would give the subject their most earnest consideration, with a desire to do full justice to Catholic sailors. That assurance was so satisfactory that the debate came to an end, but still nothing tangible resulted. One of the demands then made was that Catholic chaplains in the Navy should be placed on the same footing as regarded rank, authority, and emoluments as had been won for the Catholic chaplains in the Army. The onus of justifying a refusal of such a request must lie, and rather heavily, with the representative of the Admiralty. In the case of the Army, it was a good many years before the concessions were made, but the agitation went on, until at last the Catholic chaplain in the Army was placed precisely on an equality as regarded pay, rank, and authority with the Protestant chaplain. After the debate in 1896 long negotiations took place between the Admiralty and the Roman Catholic bishops of this country, as a result of which a statement of the Catholic demands was put forward as a compromise, representing certainly the low-water mark of the reasonable expectations of Catholics. The first point was that Catholic chaplains should have rank, salary, and pension equal to those of Church of England chaplains. Until the concession was made Catholics would not be content, as it was really of vital importance. The Admiralty had no right whatever to resist such a request, as it could not be pretended that on the question of rank any inconvenience or difficulty could arise. It was a grave and wanton humiliation of His Majesty's Catholic sailors to see their chaplains placed in a different social position or status from that of the chaplains of other religions. The point had been conceded in the Army. What sacred principle was there which prevented it in the Navy? Were the antiquated principles of bigotry which for many years had been banished from the Army to be allowed to prevail in the Navy? As a justification for this attitude, it had been urged that it would not be reasonable to demand that there should be a Catholic chaplain on every ship. That had always been admitted, seeing that the proportion of Roman Catholics was only about 8 per cent. or 9 per cent. But the original proposal was that there should be a chaplain to every squadron, and that he should reside on the flagship, so that when any large division of the Fleet went into action there would be a Catholic chaplain within reach. It was an act of outrageous cruelty that in such a case there should be ten or fifteen Protestant chaplains, and not a single Catholic chaplain who could give to the mass of wounded and dying Catholics the consolations afforded by ministrations of their religion. To say that accommodation for one chaplain could not be found in a squadron was an absurdity. The second part of the demand to which he had referred was for the appointment of chaplains and acting chaplains at a number of stations, with an increase in the pay. On this point the Admiralty had made considerable concessions. Chaplains—but without rank and not on the Establishment—were appointed at Portsmouth, Devonport, Chatham, and Malta, and acting chaplains at smaller salaries elsewhere. The salary generally was from £175 to £200 a year. He had in his hand a list of twenty stations where Roman Catholic chaplains had been appointed, and with the exception of a few of those he had no complaint to make with regard to the allowances, because in certain of those stations the amount of work to be done by the chaplains was neither regular, steady, nor very large, and therefore it was not reasonable to suggest that they should be put upon the Establishment. In the case of Esquimalt, he thought the allowance, in spite of it having been increased to £75, was still far too small. Speaking on behalf of the 10,000 Roman Catholic sailors in the Navy, nine-tenths of whom were Irish Catholics, he demanded, and would insist upon, proper facilities being given for these men to exercise their religious inclinations, and the ministers who attended to their spiritual welfare being placed upon an equality with the Protestant chaplains.

MR. BLACK (Banffshire) said he approached this question not entirely from a religious point of view. The Navy was recruited principally from the southern districts, but there were very large recruiting grounds both in Ireland and Scotland. On the north-west and the north-east coasts of Scotland there were to be found the finest men in the world for the Navy if the Navy were only open to them.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is not speaking to the question before the House, which is the appointment of Roman Catholic chaplains to the Navy.

MR. BLACK said he was coming to that point immediately, not only with regard to Roman Catholics but to ministers of religion generally, if it would be in order.

*MR. SPEAKER: No, that would not be in order.

MR. BLACK: Then, Sir, I will raise that point on the main question.

*THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): I am sure hon. Members opposite would not desire me to approach this question from an academic point of view, but to confine myself to the purely naval aspect of the question raised by the hon. Member for East Mayo. I am bound to say at the outset that the one thing that is made clear by the speech of the hon. Gentleman is that so far from the Admiralty being averse to doing anything in this matter, they have done everything they could. The views of the hon. Member for East Mayo and of the two hon. Members who opened this discussion are not apparently quite the same. The hon. Member for South Sligo and the gentleman who supported took the view that it was possible to place Roman Catholic chaplains on all the ships.

Mr. O'DOWD: No, no. I said if it were not possible to do that there should be at least one appointed to every squadron.

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Perhaps I misapprehended the hon. Gentleman. I did not understand him to express that view, but I do not wish to dwell upon that point. What I wish to say is that hon. Members have given the impression that nothing has been done to provide for the spiritual wants of the Roman Catholics in the Navy. The hon. Member for South Sligo said the sailors of the "Excellent" had not been able to follow their religion for three years; that is so contrary to my information that it is incredible. What has been done, so far as the resources of the Admiralty permitted, is to provide at every port to which His Majesty's ships are in the habit of going and in a great many ports where they are not in the habit of going a Roman Catholic chaplain to provide for the ministrations of the Roman Catholic sailors in the Navy.

Mr. O'DOWD: I may say I am in a position to prove my statement.

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Of course if the hon. Gentleman is able to do that there will be good ground for complaint, which I shall do my best to meet. I have before me a list of no less than 148 stations at which there are Roman Catholic priests, who are either paid for their services or who receive an allowance upon all occasions when they minister to the sailors of the Fleet. I think it will be admitted that the contention that has been advanced that nothing has been done is unjust and unreasonable. The analogy of the hon. Member for South Sligo is not sound. He held up the example of the Army, and said there were regiments which were so largely or exclusively composed of Roman Catholics that it had been found possible to appoint chaplains of that faith to them, and he suggested that we should have ships in the Navy that should be exclusively manned by Roman Catholics. That is a suggestion that would not commend itself to the Admiralty. In the first place it would result in the formation of what I might call "Denominational Squadrons," and in the second the crews which manned those ships would have to be allotted, not according to their ratings, but according to their religion. Reference had been made to a deputation composed of the hon. Member for East Clare and other hon. Members. I think I may say that every one of the recommendations made has either been given effect to, or that some attempt has been made to carry out the views of the deputation with respect to it. One complaint was that no adequate provision was made for the ministration of Roman Catholic sailors on the China station, and steps were at once taken to send out a priest. Another suggestion was that steps should be taken on hospital ships to minister to the sick and dying Roman Catholic sailors. The acquiescence in that proposition which Mr. Goschen made has not been carried out, because we have no hospital ships attached to the Navy; but, if we have in the future, as I believe and hope we shall have, hospital ships attached to our squadrons, I have no doubt that the pledge then given to Mr. Goschen will be carried into effect. I should like to mention here that this question is not quite so clear as hon. Gentlemen would have us believe. I do not think the views expressed here as to the attitude of the Roman Catholic Church are universally entertained elsewhere. I find both in France and Germany, where there are enormous Roman Catholic populations, there is not a single Roman Catholic chaplain appointed. Nor in Russia do I find a Roman Catholic chaplain carried on the ships. Of course even now in the British Navy the number of ships which carry a chaplain at all is exceedingly limited. It is quite a mistake to suppose that chaplains are carried by all the ships. The hon. Member for East Mayo made a suggestion the force of which I do not deny. The hon. Member said that, when squadrons were going on long cruises or into action, it would be desirable that they should be accompanied by Roman Catholic chaplains. I would, however, point out that the cruises are now exceedingly short. The mere necessity for coaling brings the ships back to port with extraordinary regularity at exceedingly short intervals, and I believe the grievance is not felt in any great degree among the sailors, who do not, in practice, find themselves debarred from these ministrations. But, Sir, I wish to repeat that there is no desire on the part of the Admiralty to do anything but what is just and reasonable, but they cannot do more than they have done.

MR. DILLON: You have not said anything about the rank of the chaplains.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: They have no rank.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): Does the hon. Gentleman say that chaplains in His Majesty's Navy do not rank as officers?

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Perhaps I expressed myself inaccurately. Chaplains in His Majesty's Navy have no substantive rank. They rank with the officers when they are at sea, but not on shore.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): What about the Roman Catholic chaplains?

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: They do not go to sea in His Majesty's ships, and therefore the question does not arise. There are three established Roman Catholic chaplains who perform duties on shore, and I can assure hon. Members that if any of those officers do go to sea attached to any squadron, they will have precisely the same privileges of equivalent rank as the chaplains who now go to sea.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND was of opinion that the tone adopted by the hon. Gentleman the Secretary to the Admiralty was a friendly one, and it had been a great pleasure to hear such a tone adopted by the hon. Gentleman; but when he reflected upon the length of time during which the question had cropped up in the House and the number of friendly speeches which had been delivered by the representatives of the Admiralty, he doubted whether the hon. Gentleman would be able or really try to meet the views of hon. Members on this question. The hon. Gentleman had advanced a curious argument against Roman Catholic chaplains being carried on His Majesty's ships when he said they were not carried in the ships of the French, German, or Russian navies. It was not necessary, he apprehended, for the British Navy to follow the example of the navies of other countries in any question. The fact that other countries made no provision was no reason to advance to the House of Commons against the action which hon. Members thought ought to be taken in common fairness and justice to the Roman Catholic sailors of the Fleet. The hon. Gentleman had said with truth that since the agitation on this question had commenced in the House the Admiralty had done a great deal towards meeting the views of the Roman Catholics in the matter. The matter was raised as long ago as 1878, and undoubtedly since then a good deal had been done. The hon. Gentleman that evening had gone further than any of his predecessors when he undertook that when a squadron went on a long cruise a Roman Catholic chaplain should be carried, but the hon. Gentleman had made no case against the assertion of the hon. Member for East Mayo that there was a grievance as regarded the question of rank. Protestant chaplains occupied the position of commissioned officers, but not a single Roman Catholic held a similar position, and although hon. Members might not consider that a very great matter, it was one which had a great effect on the minds of the Roman Catholic sailors, who were entitled to expect that the ministers of their religion should occupy a similar position to that occupied by chaplains of the Church of England. The answer of the hon. Gentleman was that Roman Catholic chaplains did not sail in the Fleet, but performed their duties ashore, and that therefore they ought not to expect to enjoy the rank of the Protestant chaplains of the Fleet. That was a point on which the Admiralty might give way. Why not grant to the Catholic chaplains, whether ashore or afloat, the same rank as was given to the chaplains of the Protestant Church? No adequate reason had ever been put forward on the part of the Admiralty for refusing the requests of the Catholics on this matter. How could it injure the Admiralty or increase to any great extent the cost of maintaining the chaplains in the Fleet? Would it impair the efficiency of the Fleet or give any offence to any section of the people, or cause any inconvenience? It could not be contended that it would; and therefore under these circumstances he maintained it was a legitimate and reasonable ground of complaint on the part of the people who belonged to the Catholic faith that the chaplains of their Church, who were engaged ashore—it was true they were not afloat, but still engaged in the service of the Navy—were denied the same rank as officers which was held by the chaplains of the Established Church of England. That was a grievance which he thought might, without any violence to precedents or any inconvenience to the Admiralty, be remedied at once. He was very glad that the hon. Gentleman had made so conciliatory a reply. It showed that he was anxious to meet the views of the Irish Members, and that he did not, as some of his predecessors had done in the past, make out that this was a question more or less affecting English Catholics, and that as long as English Ecclesiastical opinion was satisfied in the matter there was no great necessity to satisfy Irish Catholic feeling. He might say that an official of the Admiralty in the House had told him in the course of a private conversation, that really the Irish Members had no business to interfere or trouble the House on this matter in view of the fact that the English Catholics did not raise it. The inference was that the English Catholics were quite satisfied and that Irish Catholics ought to be. The answer to all that was, that while they had the greatest possible respect for English Catholics, they could never forget that for centuries every grievance which the Catholic Church suffered from and which had been removed, had been removed, not by agitation on the part of the English Catholics, but by hard battles fought by the poor Irish people. Indeed, this was more an Irish than an English question. He did not quite agree with the hon. Member for East Mayo when he put the proportion of Irish Catholics in the Navy at such a high figure, but he did maintain that the very great majority of the Catholic sailors in the Navy were Irishmen, and, that being so, it was not surprising that Irish Catholic Members of Parliament and Cardinal Logue should take a deep and abiding interest in this question, and that it should occupy their minds until the grievances had been removed, however complacent English Catholics might be. He did not know whether the hon. Gentleman would go to a division or not, but if he did, he would undoubtedly vote with him, because they had learned from past experience that no matter how friendly the intentions of the officials of the Admiralty might be, they had never had any grievance removed unless they agitated these grievances and brought them forward on the floor of the House on every possible opportunity. He strongly urged on the hon. Gentleman the Member for West Belfast to approach the Admiralty generally and endeavour to secure a satisfactory settlement of these questions once for all, so that Irish Members might be spared bringing their grievances forward year after year and occupying the time of the House.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said he wished to prevent any misunderstanding. What he meant to convey was that when large squadrons went on cruises which would take the men away for a long time from all means of enjoying the ministrations of their religion, it might be possible to arrange that a Roman Catholic chaplain should be carried; but as to cruises such as that of the Channel Squadron, when the fleet frequently touched at ports, such anarrangement would be uncalled for.

MR. SAMUEL YOUNG (Cavan, E.) said there was great danger of due consideration not being given to the fact of the difference between a Protestant and a Catholic country. In Ireland they had a positive religion, whereas the Protestant religion was negative. [An HON. MEM-

BER: No, no.] Yes, yes. Some people seemed to think that the orders of their Church were not considered of much importance, but that was a mistake. Their religion being positive, their ordinances meant something, and therefore it was absolutely necessary that Catholic chaplains should be appointed wherever there were Catholic people, be they more or less numerous. If it was intended to attract Irishmen into the Navy, the Government must be very particular in supplying them with the ordinances of their religion, which in all walks of life was the basis of their action.

SIR J. FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.) said he did not think that the tone of the discussion, which had been so friendly, should be marred by any remark disrespectful to their respective religious persuasions. He had heard with great pleasure the statement of the Secretary to the Admiralty, conceding the very natural and proper desires of hon. Gentlemen opposite. He himself had had experience of the admirable conduct of Roman Catholic chaplains in the East, and it was well known that the co-adjutor Bishop of Westminster had, by his conduct in Egypt and in the Soudan, won the respect of all classes and religions. He would suggest that when the number of Roman Catholic sailors justified the appointment of a priest for his whole time in the service in the Navy, it would be only proper that he should receive official rank in the same way as in the Army. That would go far to meet the desires of our Roman Catholic fellow-countrymen.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.) quite agreed with the remarks which had fallen from the hon. Member for East Clare to the effect that the statement made by the Secretary to the Admiralty was an advance on those made on former occasions by the hon. Gentleman's predecessors. At the same time he could not help casting his mind back over the many years in which they had made similar propositions, and when they had been almost derided and told of the impossibility of granting their demands. After twenty years it was very comforting to think that the authorities recognised that these demands should be conceded; and he hoped the pledges given would be carried into effect. That hope, however, had been somewhat marred by the second utterance of the hon. Gentleman, which seemed to whittle down very much the concession he had made in his first speech. There was an old saying that "Where there's a will there's a way," and he firmly believed that if the Admiralty were to consider the points which the Irish Members put before them in a sympathetic manner, they would find opportunities of meeting them. These matters had a sentimental as well as a religious side, and the Government, therefore, ought to pay particular attention to the views put forward from the Irish benches. Without in the slightest degree reflecting on any other creed, it was notorious that the feelings of Irishmen were different from those of other people, and that the ministrations of their Church were of far more importance to them than the ministrations of other Churches to their people. Many young fellows—as fine young fellows as were to be found anywhere—were in his neighbourhood joining the Royal Naval Reserve, and if the Government accepted their services they had a right to provide for their religious ministrations, and to do nothing to outrage their beliefs. He could not see why the position of Catholic chaplains in point of emolument should be worse than that of chaplains of other creeds, but it was notorious that they were not placed on an equality. In the minds of many the treatment meted out to Catholic chaplains was regarded as a slur upon them; it placed a badge of inferiority upon them compared with chaplains of other creeds, and also a badge of inferiority on the sailors to whom they ministered. Irish Members had, therefore, the right to resent that the Catholic chaplains were not on a par with the chaplains of other creeds. English Catholics had, to some extent, enjoyed the advantages that had been won for them by their fellow Catholics in Ireland, but he thought that the Admiralty should have communicated with Cardinal Logue on this matter, which concerned Irish more than English Catholics. For his part, he thought that the promise which had been made by the representative of the Admiralty could not be considered satisfactory in the least degree.

*MR. O'DOHERTY (Donegal, N.) said there was one point to which he wished to draw the attention of the hon. Member for West Belfast. During the Naval manœuvres last year and the year before, when the Channel Squadron was in Irish waters, some of the officers refused to allow the Catholic sailors to go ashore and attend church services, although no manœuvres were going on at the time. He was not then in Parliament, but he had at that time wrote a letter on the subject to the Admiralty, and had merely received the stereotyped official answer. If the statement of the hon. Member for West Belfast had been made for the first time in reference to this question of naval chaplains, his hon. friend, the Member for South Sligo, might be advised to withdraw his motion. But, so far back as 1896 Mr. Goschen, in answer to the hon. Member for East Mayo, gave an undertaking that the Admiralty would increase the number of Roman Catholic chaplains in the Navy. Two years later, in answer to a question, also put by the hon. Member for East Mayo, why the undertaking had not been carried out, Mr. Goschen said that the proposal for increasing the number of Catholic chaplains in the Navy had been before the Treasury since 1896; and it was only in 1898 that the permission of the Treasury had been given. How did they know that the same procedure would not be gone through again? It might be three or four years before the Treasury authority would be obtained for the changes promised that night. He noticed that seven-eighths of the Vote of £36,000 for Navy chaplains went to chaplains belonging to the Established Church of England. This was not so much a question of religion or nationality as of efficiency. They had been told that England must depend for its safety upon its fleet, and surely every inducement should be offered to young men to join the Navy. He knew in his own constituency of young men who, on account of there being no Catholic chaplains in the Navy, had actually left this country and joined the American Navy, and so the Empire had lost their services.

Mr. MACARTNEY (Antrim, S.) said he wished to say one word on the question of issuing commissions to Roman Catholic chaplains in the Navy. Hon. Gentlemen opposite seemed to think that these Roman Catholic chaplains, not being commissioned, were placed in some sort of social inferiority to those who were commissioned. He would point out that that was not so. The chaplains in the Navy who were commissioned were not put in a position of superiority; they had no relative rank on board ship by reason of their commissions. The issue of commissions to chaplains of the Church of England was a question merely of administrative convenience, in sending them afloat or ashore to any quarter of the world. Their commission entitled them to a cabin on board ship; and, in the event of their death, their widows were entitled to pensions. He wished to point out that Protestant chaplains had on shore no rank on account of their religion above Roman Catholic chaplains; the whole question was one of administrative convenience, and for that reason he was bound to say that, whatever might be the sentiment which lay behind the demand of the hon. Gentleman opposite, in this case there was no actual grievance, and as the Admiralty had no control over Roman Catholic chaplains at ports, and had no authority to move them from one place to another, they were in an entirely different position to Protestant chaplains in the Navy.

Dr. THOMPSON (Monaghan, N), speaking as a Protestant and as a surgeon who had served some years in the Navy, said that in his opinion the Roman Catholics in this matter had a very serious ground for complaint. The Secretary to the Admiralty, so far as he could see, had given no reason whatever why Roman Catholic chaplains should not be placed upon the same footing as Protestant chaplains. He thought this difficulty might be got over if that were done. He did not of course believe that unjust concessions or privileges should be made to Catholics or anyone else, but he maintained that there should be no inequality of treatment between Catholics and Protestants, and that any privileges the one possessed should be freely and as a matter of right accorded to the other. The curse of Ireland in the past had been the maintenance of a system the exact opposite of what he now contended for as regards Catholic naval chaplains. He would respectfully urge upon the Government the necessity of complying with the very reasonable request conveyed to them by every Irish and many English Members who had joined in the debate. So far as the officers in the Navy were concerned, no difficulty would be raised by them. The staff surgeon of the ship upon which he served in the Mediterranean, who was a Roman Catholic, was the most popular man on board, and from his own experience he could say that the officers in His Majesty's Navy did not care two jack straws what a man's religion was so long as he was an agreeable companion and a reliable friend. The whole difficulty would disappear if Roman Catholic chaplains were appointed to each Admiral's ship, with the same status and pay as their Protestant brothers.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.) said he joined in the demand for the redress of this grievance, which was now being debated in the House for the third time. He was present two years previously when the late First Lord of the Admiralty, Lord Goschen, made a distinct promise to the hon. Member for East Mayo that he would find some means of redressing this grievance under which the Catholic sailors suffered, but so far as the Irish Members could learn no effort had been made to carry out that promise. When the House considered that there were 10,000 Roman Catholic seamen serving in the Navy it was surely not an unreasonable demand to make that there should be Roman Catholic chaplains appointed to each ship. If that were done a good deal of the grievance would be removed. It was absolutely absurd for the hon. Member for South Antrim to attempt to argue that, owing to their not holding commission, the Roman Catholic ministers were not branded with the mark of inferiority. The Roman Catholic ministers in this case were quite as much entitled to fair treatment as the Protestants. There were 170 Protestant chaplains in the Navy, most of whom held commission rank in the service. There were no Roman Catholic chaplains who held a like position, and it could not be argued that such a state of things did not place a badge of inferiority on the Roman Catholics. It might be urged that this was a mere matter of sentiment, and that no useful purpose would be served by taking action in the matter, but he would point out that it was a matter of the very deepest interest to the Roman Catholic people of Ireland, from whom the Navy drew 7,000 men a year. Of such deep interest was the question to the parents and to the prelates of Ireland that an embargo had been placed upon the people joining the Service. There was a real and tangible grievance in this matter, for although hon. Gentlemen opposite might call it sentiment, it was one of the most vital questions of the day, affecting as it did the spiritual welfare of many thousands of men in the Navy. There were two complaints with regard to this branch of the Service: one was with regard to the emolument, and second, the question of rank. The Secretary to the Admiralty had in his first speech given great hope that something would be done with regard to these matters, but he had apparently repented of his promise, because in his second reply he had taken away what he had promised on the first occasion; the question therefore would be left in the same position as it was when Lord Goschen left the Admiralty. Lord Goschen, when First Lord of the Admiralty, made most sympathetic promises, and there the matter ended. The hon. Gentleman would, he supposed, do the same as Lord Goschen had done during the last six years. He had heard it stated from the Government Benches in the past that the Government were afraid to appoint Roman Catholic chaplains to ships containing a Protestant chaplain, because of the friction which might arise, but the hon. Member for North Monaghan had made a most valuable statement with regard to that matter, and conclusively proved that there would be no difficulty in that matter. He could not congratulate the hon. Gentleman opposite on the undoubted change which had taken place in his views since he had been elevated to his present position. When in other days the hon. Gentleman from his seat below the gangway criticised with vigour and ability the Navy Estimates the grievances of the Irish Members had some share of his sympathy, and he implored the hon. Gentleman to show that sympathy now by pressing upon the Department which he represented the fact that this was a live grievance, which wanted remedying. He warned the hon. Member that if he approached the matter in a half-hearted way, or attempted to ignore it, there would, upon subsequent occasions, be a full ventilation of the grievance from the Irish benches.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) said, so far as the Irish Benches were concerned, there was no desire to prolong the debate, and he had hoped a division upon the question might have been avoided, because some of the statements of the Secretary for the Navy, if not altogether satisfactory, had shown a desire to do something with a good grace. He, however, regretted that the hon. Gentleman in his second speech took away the reality of the concessions which he had given in his first. The hon. Member for South Antrim in the course of his observations had said that with regard to the appointment of Roman Catholic chaplains, the Roman Catholics were in no worse position than the Methodists or any other religious sect of this country, but the hon. Member had overlooked the fact that only one religion was represented in the Navy—that of the Established Church—and from that point of view a monopoly was being created in favour of the members of the Established Church. On the other hand, there was an impassable gulf between all sects of Protestantism and the Roman Catholic Church which did not exist between the divisions of the Church of England, so that Methodists and persons of other denominations had the benefit of the ministrations of the Protestant chaplain. This question had been raised over and over again, and he thought that on this occasion some advance had been made with regard to it. They did not demand that a Roman Catholic chaplain should be appointed to every large ship in the Navy, they only asked that one should be appointed to every squadron. The hon. Gentleman the Secretary to the Admiralty, in his speech, had narrowed down his promise with regard to that to promising that if there was a squadron which was going on a long cruise, then, and then only, should a Roman Catholic chaplain be appointed to one of the vessels in the squadron. Every one thought at first that the hon. Gentleman had promised at first that there should be a Roman Catholic chaplain appointed to every squadron wherever it might have to go, and it was not, after all, an unreasonable thing to ask, that when there was a squadron of ships containing 2,000 or 3,000 Catholics they should have the benefit of their spiritual guide, but the hon. Gentleman restricted that concession to a squadron on a long cruise. What made that restriction the more extraordinary was the fact that, after all the agitation upon this matter, after Lord Goschen had practically accepted the principle of the demand of the hon. Members for East Mayo and East Clare, and after all the promises which had been given by Lord Goschen with regard to the matter, the Secretary to the Admiralty had come down and, with a grand appearance of making a great concession, had given what the Board of Admiralty had given twenty-two years before. The Secretary to the Admiralty said that he could only give an Irish chaplain to a squadron which was ordered on a long cruise. On June 7th, 1878, the Board of Admiralty issued a Minute which said—

> "My Lords direct that when a large number of ships forming a squadron are sent on any service which will keep them for any length of time from a port where a Roman Catholic priest is in residence, arrangements are to be made for a Roman Catholic chaplain to accompany the squadron."

Was it fair to come down to the House in 1901, after twenty-two years of agitation and promises made only to be broken, to meet the Irish Members with the repetition of a Minute issued by the Board of Admiralty twenty-two years previously? It was treating the Irish representatives with ignominy and contempt. He hoped that the First Lord of the Treasury, whom he saw in his place, would give some intimation that the Government intended to act up to some of the promises which had been made; but if he did not, and if they were to be met with a repetition of what had taken place in the past, they could only keep agitating the question. Under the circumstances he should vote for the Amendment.

MAJOR JAMESON (Clare, W.) said he represented a constituency which sent a great number of young men into the Navy, and therefore he desired to protest against the hard and fast line taken by the Admiralty, who absolutely refused to grant to Irish Roman Catholic chaplains the same treatment as was meted out to their brothers in the Protestant religion. The Government were always ready in his district to recruit for the Navy among the hardy fishermen of the neighbourhood. They were ready enough to take the men, but not to spend a few pounds in order that the men they took, who carried their religion deep in their hearts, might have the comfort of the ministrations of their own religious minister. Would it not be worth while to consider whether men did not make better sailors by having their religion at heart? It was a cruel thing not to provide Catholic chaplains. The concession granted by the hon. Gentleman was utterly worthless, and therefore he hoped the matter would be pressed to a division. If the concessions asked for were not granted he hoped the Government would be able to obtain no more recruits from the west coast of Ireland.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 154; Noes, 97. (Division List No. 84.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Brist'l)
Beach, Rt. Hn. W. W. B. (Hants.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Brookfield, Colonel Montague
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chathm
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Durning-Lawrence, Sir E.
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (Manc'r
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose-
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans)
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, Walford D. (Wednesb'ry
Greene, Sir E. W (B'ry S. Edm'ds
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Hain, Edward
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Ld. G. (Mdx.
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. Wm.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Henderson, Alexander
Howard, Capt J (Kent, Faversh.
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh.
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop
Keswick, William
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Fred. Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants, Fareham
Leighton, Stanley
Leveson-Gower, Fred N. S.
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, Rt Hn W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Killop, Jas. (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm,-Ian
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh
Middlemore, Jn. Throgmorton
Morgan, D.J. (Walthamstow)
Morgan, Hon. F. (Mon.)
Morrell, George Herbert
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Peel, Hon. Wm. R. Wellesley
Penn, John
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Reid, James (Greenock)
Renwick, George
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Ropner, Col. Robert
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos Myles
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, H C (Northmb. Tyneside
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Lt.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C E H (Sheffield
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E (Tauntn
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notts)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-u.-Lyne

Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H.(Yorks)
Wodehouse, Rt Hn E. R.(Bath)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander(Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Hayes Fisher.

NOES.

Abraham, William(Cork, N.E.)
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Ambrose, Robert
Asher, Alexander
Austin, Sir John
Barlow, John Emmott
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bell, Richard
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Clancy, John Joseph
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Hammond, John
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Holland, William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, W.)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Joicey, Sir James
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kinloch, SirJohnGeorgeSmyth
Kitson, Sir James
Leamy, Edmund
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid.)
O'Connor, James(Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James(Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Partington, Oswald
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E.(Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roche, John
Schwan, Charles E.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thomas, DavidAlfred (Merth'r
Thompson, E. C. (Monaghan, N.
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Whiteley, G. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, HenryJ. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

Main Question again proposed.

THE GOVERNMENT'S NAVAL PROPOSALS.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): My principal object in rising now is to place before the House and the country the view which I believe is taken by those who sit on this bench and on this side of the House—certainly, I believe, by those with whom I had the honour to act on a former Board of Admiralty—of the large proposals now made by the Government.

The first point upon which I wish to speak is the controversy with regard to Belleville boilers. That controversy began seven years ago, at the instance of my hon. friend the Member for Gateshead. At that time the then Board of Admiralty extended on a large scale for the first time the adoption of the water-tube boiler, which had already been adopted on a comparatively small scale by the previous Administration. My hon. friend challenged our action on that occasion, and it fell upon me to explain the views of the Board. Last session the then First Lord of the Admiralty announced the appointment of an Expert Committee to examine the whole position. That Committee has now reported, and I wish to call the attention of the representatives of the Admiralty to the position in which they find themselves in face of that Report. I do not think the hon. Member for Gateshead has any reason to be dissatisfied with that Report.

MR. WILLIAM ALLAN (Gateshead): No. I have not.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Because, although perhaps not in an unqualified manner, it does find against the Belleville boiler to a large extent. As representing the Admiralty of 1893, I have no reason to be dissatisfied with the Report either, because in one paragraph the Committee declare that—

> "at the time the Belleville boiler was introduced into the Navy in the 'Powerful' and 'Terrible' it was the only large tube type of water-tube boiler which had been tried at sea on a considerable scale under ordinary working conditions. The Committee therefore consider that there was justification for them regarding it as the most suitable type of water-tube boiler for the Navy."

I do not think I could envy the position of an Admiralty face to face with a Report such as this. I do not for one moment begrudge any praise that may be due to the Expert Committee, which gave its time, experience, and talents to the consideration of this serious question, but I cannot at present conceive what line of policy the Admiralty ought now to adopt. The findings of the Committee do not appear to be clear or consistent one with another. In the first place they find in favour of the water-tube boiler in general. They declare that it—

> "would be more suitable for use in His Majesty's Navy than the cylindrical type of boiler,"

and go on to give reasons for that opinion. They specify the most important requirements from a military point of view, and they declare that—

> "these requirements are met by the water-tube boiler in a greater degree than by the cylindrical boiler, and are considered by the Committee of such importance as to outweigh the advantages of the latter type in economy of fuel and cost of up-keep."

Having said that, the Committee say a number of other things hardly consistent with it.

But I pass from that commendation of the water-tube boiler principle in general to what the Committee say about the Belleville boiler in particular. When we adopted that policy in 1893, in continuation of the policy of our predecessors, we always declared that while the Belleville appeared to us to be the best boiler for the moment of that type, we were in no way committed to it. This Committee speak in a very peculiar way about the Belleville boiler. They—

> "do not consider that the Belleville boiler has any such advantage over other types of water-tube boilers as leads them to recommend it as the best adapted to the requirements of His Majesty's Navy."

That is their statement. But what is their recommendation? They make a recommendation which it appears to me can only cause embarrassment to the present Board of Admiralty. As regards new ships, and what I may call "infant" ships—that is, ships just begun—they recommend the Admiralty to discard the Belleville boiler altogether. As regards finished ships and ships under construction which are beyond the engine stage, they recommend its retention. These are curious recommendations, and they become all the more curious when the Committee go on, in answer to queries put by the Admiralty as to what they would recommend in place of the Belleville, to specify four kinds of water-tube boilers, of which they suggest that some or all types should be taken. These four types are all, in the first instance, to be experimented upon. As to the first two —the "Babcock and Wilcox" and the "Niclausse"—the Committee recommend that certain sloops and cruisers should be expedited in order that the value of these types of boilers for naval purposes may be ascertained at the earliest possible date. Having already discarded the Belleville type and recommended these as substitutes, they go on to say that the first thing to be done is to ascertain what their value is for naval purposes. So it is with the other two specimens. They are also to be experimented upon with a view to seeing what their real value is. That is a recommendation which I think the Admiralty will have some difficulty in acting upon.

Further, after specifying certain advantages connected with the Belleville boiler, the Committee go on to say—

> "The additional evaporating plant required with Belleville boilers, and the greater coal consumption on ordinary service as compared with cylindrical boilers, has hitherto nullified to a great extent the saving of weight effected by their adoption, and in considering the radius of action it is doubtful whether any real advantage has been gained."

That is, I understand, any real advantage over the cylindrical boiler. Having previously stated that military requirements—which, of course, are paramount in this question—condemn the cylindrical boiler, and support the water-tube type, they make that remark about the Belleville. They then say—

> "The Committee are not prepared without further experience to say to what extent this may not apply to other types of water-tube boilers."

I confess I hardly know what conclusion to draw from this Report, and my difficulty is not lessened when I find this remarkable paragraph following the passages to which I have already referred—

> "To obtain satisfactory results in the working of the Belleville boilers, in face of the defects named in paragraph (9), more than ordinary experience and skill are required on the part of the engine-room staff. It appears, however, from the evidence placed before the Committee that the engineer officers in charge of Belleville boilers have not been made acquainted with the best method of working the boiler, and that which experience has shown to be the most effectual in preventing pitting and corrosion of tubes."

It would be invidious for me to go any further into the conclusions of this Report. It appears to me to be a most embarrassing document for the Admiralty, and I do not envy the Board which, having appointed this Committee, is now face to face with a Report so inconclusive, and so far from clear, and so inconsistent as this Report is in many respects. And my difficulty in knowing what the Admiralty can possibly do is increased by the statement of the hon. Gentleman himself. In his remarks the other night about the Belleville boiler I understood him to declare that the ships fitted with the type are working satisfactorily now, and have been for years in foreign navies. What is the result to be? I do not know what those who advised the Admiralty to adopt the water-tube boiler in principle and the Belleville boiler by preference have to say to this Report. Our then technical advisers are still the advisers of the Admiralty; one of our colleagues (not mentioned here) on the Board of Admiralty of that day is in office now, namely, the First Sea Lord. He was a party to the adoption of the water-tube principle and the Belleville boiler by the Board of which I had the honour to be a member. I should like to know, before coming to a conclusion, how the opinions of our experts, and those who advised us, and whose advice we were bound to take, are modified by the conclusions arrived at by this Committee. The alternative placed before us was this—"Foreign navies are adopting the water-tube boiler. You must accept either the water-tube boiler or inferiority in an essential military requirement, and the best type of boiler is the Belleville." That was our position when we entered upon the large experiment in 1893. The hon. Member for Gateshead will admit that his original criticism against our policy was directed not so much against the particular type of boiler, or perhaps even the water-tube principle itself, as against our taking a large step in advance without further experiments. That position I defended at the time, and I need only say in defence of it now that we fitted two cruisers with the type best known, and which had been experimented upon under conditions which we were advised offered a guarantee of its suitability. In making that statement I am not in any way casting a reflection upon the action of the succeeding Board of Admiralty, which carried our policy to a point much further than we had done. We should very likely have done exactly as they did, but I wanted to make clear how this controversy originated, and what the share of our Board in it was. Having said that I will pass from this subject with the observation that this Report, able as the members of the Committee may have been, is of such a character that it does not take away from the Admiralty one single ounce of responsibility. They must go back to the expert skill with which the Admiralty is so admirably endowed. This is an incident only in the history of this very important question, and we shall look to the Admiralty on its own responsibility of skilled advisers to decide now, as if no such Report had been issued, what their policy in the future should be.

The next point in the programme to which I should like to direct attention is the adoption of submarine boats for the first time in this year's programme. I have given a good deal of attention, both while I was in the Admiralty office and since, to this question, and, having supported this experiment in this House and out of it, it may seem somewhat ungracious for me to cast any reflection upon what the Admiralty are going to do. But there are some things that ought to be said, for it appears to be a serious thing. France has fifty-six submarine boats, and the chief-constructor of the American Navy is one of the warmest advocates of submarine boats. As this is only a matter of experiment I do think it might have been introduced upon a somewhat smaller scale. If its value is purely conjectural I should have said that one boat would have been enough to experiment with. Two should have been quite enough, but we generally do things on a large scale, and after having refused to say one word for many years about submarine boats we now find the Admiralty launching out into quite a little fleet of them. I think it was the hon. Gentleman the Civil Lord who was asked a question not long ago about submarine boats. He gave the answer which has been repeated from time immemorial, and he added that a statement would be made in the Estimate, and no policy was announced. We find now that in regard to these five submarine boats some of them were ordered in the year 1900. We have travelled far and fast in this country in some ways, but what has become of the control of the House of Commons? What has become of that control when the Admiralty of the day having refused to tell us their policy come forward shortly afterwards and say they will build five of these boats? Lord Goschen, to whose zeal, firmness of purpose, and devotion to the interests of the Navy I desire to be allowed to pay a tribute, carried things pretty far in the last Parliament. He came down at the end of the session not to propose a Supplementary Estimate, but to mention to us on another Vote that he intended to build a certain number of extra ships which were not provided for in the original Estimate. The Member for West Monmouthshire protested against that course as an abuse of the position of the Government, and said that they had no right to build any ships except upon an Estimate submitted to and approved by the House of Commons. I cannot help protesting against this, for a new departure of this nature ought not to have been made except with the sanction of the House, and at the very least it ought not to have been done without being divulged to the House.

The next point I come to is that mysterious expedition to Gibraltar, which has lately been sanctioned. I do not know what lies behind that adventurous voyage of the hon. Member for King's Lynn and his colleagues. When it was first mentioned we took no exception to an inquiry, and the House has probably now forgotten what a remarkable kind of investigation it was to be. We now know that there is to be a Committee and no Commission, no common reference and no connected Report, and all we know is that a certain number of gentlemen—of whom the hon. Gentleman the Member for King's Lynn is not more than one—are to be appointed and are to be asked to investigate some questions. Who the colleagues of the hon. Member for King's Lynn are we have not yet perfectly ascertained, but that appears to me to be a very curious sort of inquiry to propose into a matter so tremendously grave as the question of the state and defences of the public docks at Gibraltar. I would repeat in regard to this matter what I said about the boilers, that, whatever letters or Reports these gentlemen severally or collectively may write as to the position of the docks and defences at Gibraltar, nothing can take away the direct responsibility of the Admiralty for the future policy on this question. The Admiralty through its own officers has been working nearly seven years at these docks. They were first sanctioned nearly seven years ago, and a great staff has been engaged upon the work. To suppose for a moment that after such an investigation as that which I have just described such a Committee as I have sketched can add anything to the information of the Board of Admiralty on the subject appears to me to be trifling with the question. I look to the Admiralty and its own officers for the determination of the policy which we are to pursue in reference to the docks at Gibraltar.

I come now to another point. The hon. and gallant Member for Great Yarmouth will, I think, sympathise with this view—I refer to what we have been told about the policy of the Government in regard to coaling stations, which is a problem of most tremendous difficulty, but one of the most important which has engaged the attention of the Admiralty and the War Office for many years, and upon which there is a direct conflict of opinion between naval and military experts. The Secretary of State for War in describing the programme which we have not yet sanctioned, and which is to be submitted for further discussion at a later date, told us that in dealing with the Army he proposed that certain of the coaling stations should be handed over to the Navy. He further hinted that he did not know what the opinion of the Admiralty was on this question, and he indicated that they had not yet consented to the proposal he had made. That was a most astounding thing for any Minister to do. The Secretary to the Admiralty has stated that this was only the personal opinion of the Secretary for War. That explanation appears to me to make matters worse, for what right has a Minister in this House, while defending the policy of the Government, to express his own personal opinion? See the astounding position in which we find ourselves. We find one Minister committing his Department to something without knowing what the opinion of the Admiralty is. I think that is very improper, whether it is his own personal opinion or not. People say that the authority of the House of Commons is diminishing, and that the power of the Cabinet is increasing, but it appears to me that the authority of the House of Commons and the Cabinet are both disappearing. What kind of a Cabinet is it that allows a Minister to express a personal opinion which advocates one policy one night on Imperial defence and a totally different policy the next night? What becomes of that famous Joint Committee of Defence? What becomes of the Joint Committee pressed for by the President of the Council, when such a declaration is made by the Secretary for War upon a matter which is not the least important among all the questions concerning our Imperial defence?

Those who look at the Navy Estimates will notice that Vote 16, which deals with the flotilla in Australian waters, has disappeared altogether from the Estimates. Again and again during recent years I have asked the Government what was going to happen in regard to this question, and I was refused information upon it. The House has now before it Estimates in which the Vote has disappeared altogether, and no information is given. I hope the hon. Gentleman will tell us what is the present position of this arrangement, and why it is that no provision has been made for it in the Estimates. Perhaps he may also be able to explain a mysterious paragraph in the memorandum about the South Australian ship "Protector," which has been lent to His Majesty's Government. I understand that this comes, under an Act of 1865, which has been adopted by an Order in Council, as a British man-of-war. I should like to know upon what conditions the ship "Protector" has been lent to His Majesty's Government.

We were also told that the scheme of merchant cruisers was to be largely extended this year, but the vote for that has almost disappeared, and only three new companies have been added. No provision is made as to arrangements with the great companies who furnish these merchant vessels. The hon. Gentleman also spoke of the delay in construction in recent years, and spoke of it as being due to the engineers' "strike." That was a lock-out, and I have always held that the weakness of the Admiralty in not enforcing its penal clauses in their contracts has led to their own embarrassment. This has attracted the attention of foreign naval constructors, and they cannot understand why the Government have not the courage to enforce the penal clause in their contracts.

My last point is with regard to the Royal yacht. I do not know when the House of Commons, while considering Naval Estimates, ever had before it a story so distressing as the history of the Royal yacht. I, for one, can take no blame to myself about it, because I was one of the few Members of this House who from the beginning did not like this project for the Royal yacht. We suggested that it should have been built like the new German yacht: that it ought to be serviceable not only as a toy and a pleasure yacht, but that it should be so constructed as to be useful in time of war. If that had been done she might very safely have been entrusted to the Admiralty staff and the dockyard staff. Then the Admiralty would have had a ship which they knew all about. Otherwise, it would have been wiser to send her to a private yacht builder, whose particular business it was to build yachts, and not give this delicate piece of workmanship to a staff which had never built a yacht before. We have never pressed in this House for much information about it, and I am not sure that my hon. friend the Member for Gateshead has not given us more information than the Admiralty upon it. I think it is high time that the full dockyard history of this unhappy adventure should be laid before the House of Commons. We started out with the proposal to spend something like £300,000 on this yacht, and surely that was enough for what was going to be a private yacht, even for the Sovereign. This year the total Estimate for this yacht exceeds £500,000. Surely, in any other country, such an event as this would be regarded financially as disgraceful to the administrative capacity of the Department responsible for it. But we have at least still got the control of the purse, and we should demand to know how it is that the original amount of £300,000 for a mere pleasure yacht has mounted up in three disastrous years to something like £521,000. I trust that that information will not be refused us, and that we shall have a full history and all the reasons which have led to this unhappy result. We should also like to know whether she is going to have Belleville boilers or any other kind of water-tube boilers.

In conclusion, I want to call the serious attention of an indifferent House, and, so far as I can, of an indifferent country, to the enormous magnitude of the proposals contained in these Estimates. Some years ago Mr. Goschen apologised for the Estimates of the day, and admitted that they were colossal. Certainly they were colossal as compared with any previous year, but they were pygmies compared with the Estimates which we have before us to-night. Many people do not appear to have the faintest notion of the magnitude of this programme. I want to bring before the House the real magnitude of the programme we are asked to express general approval of. This year the total Navy Estimates amount to nearly £31,000,000 in round numbers. I add to that amount what will be required this year, and for many years to come, under the Naval Works Acts, the sum of £2,000,000, and putting these together I call the attention of the House to this fact, that the Government this year is asking for £33,000,000 sterling for naval purposes. I cannot separate the Army from the Navy so easily as the Secretary of State for War, and I must add to this gigantic total the huge figures we were discussing the other day. Roughly speaking, the normal Army Estimates are about £30,000,000, and I add to that the amount for military loans, which I take it this year will be about £1,000,000. That gives us a total for the Army of £31,000,000. This shows that the military expenditure of this country in time of peace amounts to £64,000,000 sterling for this one year. Surely, these figures are awful amounts to arrest the attention of the House and the country, more especially when I remind the House that these proposals have been laid upon the Table almost without a word of defence or explanation. I know there have been explanations of minor points, but on the whole they have been dumped down upon the Table, and not one word of the First Lord's Memorandum would lead you to suppose that they were in any way extraordinary. Let the House remember that this £64,000,000 is our war expenditure in time of peace, and takes no account whatever of the Supplementary Estimates or the cost of the war in South Africa. This is simply our own British expenditure to which I am referring. I thought when I was responsible for the biggest Estimate that had been introduced up to that time that the more we spent on our Navy the less we should have to spend on the Army—I should like to arrive at the figure which we can afford to spend on both these Services, and after spending all that is wanted for the Navy leave the rest for the Army. But the reverse has been the case. The more the expenditure on the Navy has gone up the greater has been the demand for expenditure on the Army. The increase of these Estimates began in the year 1893, and up to that point the Naval Estimates of Great Britain had reached a normal standard of about £14,000,000 per year. Later our attention was called to the fact that the next two great naval Powers of France and Russia between them were spending more upon their navies than we were. France and Russia in 1893 spent jointly on their Navies £16,000,000 as against our £14,240,000. That was a balance which we determined to redress, and that was why our Naval Estimates were increased.

In the year 1900, the last of which I have a record, the estimates of France mounted up from £10,000,000 in 1893 to £12,000,000, and those of Russia rose proportionately from £5,000,000 to £9,000,000. In other words, while we were spending £14,000,000 in 1893, against £16,000,000 spent by France and Russia, in 1900 the joint expenditure of France and Russia amounted to £21,000,000, to which our answer was an expenditure of £33,000,000. Therefore, instead of being £2,000,000 behind, as in 1893, we are now £12,000,000 ahead of them. These enormous Estimates, which arose out of an attempt to keep us upon an equality with France and Russia, have resulted in proposals which have put us £12,000,000 ahead, and that has been done without any explanation on the part of the Admiralty. I am aware that France is no longer in this respect the second nation, but the second nation is now the still greater friend of our own. The expenditure upon the United States Navy has leaped up from £3,000,000 to £15,000,000, but I do not need to discuss a fact like that. I have supported big Navy Estimates before, but these increases are so vast and, to the best of my belief, bound so far beyond the standard aimed at in previous years, that they ought not to be submitted to this House except upon a full declaration of what the object is, and why it is necessary to put such enormous demands before the country. Unless there has been a very great change lately I believe if you take the Estimates of last year of the four largest European navies you will find that the total is equalled by the Naval Estimates of Great Britain. That is a matter which demands some explanation. The men asked for in 1893 included a large addition which had become necessary on account of the additional ships built under the previous Naval Defence Act; and so the figure I am going to quote is not the normal figure, but part of the new increase. Well, in 1893 the number of men asked for was 76,700. This year the Government is asking for an active list of 118,635 men. That is an enormous increase. Here again I do not say that it wants justification, for I think it is justified. I am giving these figures as a measure of the enormous increase which the British Navy has undergone. I maintain that this increase of the *personnel* is absolutely necessitated by the increase of the fleet; but it is a significant thing that in these seven years, having already begun to increase, we added 42,000 men to the active list of the Navy. About five or six years ago I obtained from the Admiralty a most interesting Return, which you will not get from Brassey's Naval Annual, but which throws useful light on this question. That was a Return of the men on the active list of all the Navies of Europe. I remember being astounded that, even then, our active list, with a much stronger fleet, was more than equal to those of all the other European nations combined. I hope the Admiralty will not neglect any opportunity they have of finding out the active list of other navies, so that we may compare the active *personnel* as well as expenditure and other points.

The biggest Vote on the Navy Estimates is always the Shipbuilding Vote. It has reached portentous dimensions—£14,676,000. This is a net increase over last year of £9,274,500. Of this enormous total we are told in the First Lord's memorandum that provision for new construction alone amounts to £9,000,000. I believe I am right in saying that this is the largest total for new construction ever proposed either in this House or in the country.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Do you say it is too much?

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I am not saying it is too much. That is another question altogether. But it is so great that I cannot accept the hon. Member's word for it that it is not more than enough, following, as it does, on the enormous increase of last year. We are entitled to have an explanation of its necessity; nay, more, I venture to say, a defence of the magnitude of these figures. The hon. Member asked me if it is enough or not; and again I refer to the measure of the two Powers. I never committed myself to any limitation of this measure. It was a practical rule of thumb measure which was adopted by successive Admiralties and by the House of Commons. I never said I was dissatisfied with that measure, or that, in a given case, I should not ask for something larger; but I ask the hon. Member to listen to this: This £9,000,000, which we are asked for for new construction, is to be set against the provision made last year in France and Russia, the two Powers in question. The new construction provided for in France in 1900, but which is not likely to be fulfilled, for I am quite sure they do not build up to their programme as we do, was £4,200,000; and in Russia £2,400,000; or a total of £6,600,000. I dwell upon this Vote of the Estimates, as I have ventured to do on similar occasions before, because I regard it as the master-Vote of all these Navy Estimates; it is the Vote upon which everything else depends. The more you swell this Vote the more you swell all the other Estimates. The serious thing for this country is that our liability is not to be measured by the £31,000,000 in this year's Estimates. I have examined the proportion between the Shipbuilding Vote and the total Navy Estimates for many years, and I find that, as regularly as possible, in normal times the proportion is as one to three. Suppose you do not increase the Shipbuilding Vote at all, what will be the consequence? You will have the Navy Estimates very soon up to £42,000,000 a year, instead of £32,000,000. When the hon. Member challenges me to say whether these Estimates are too much, my answer is that they are so vast that they ought not to be submitted to the House or accepted by the House until a full explanation of all the reasons making them necessary has been given. I say that no such information has been vouchsafed in the Estimates themselves, in the statement of the First Lord, or in the speech of the hon. Gentleman the Secretary to the Admiralty. We have not yet had what we are entitled to have; the House has no right to sanction such expenditure as this without further information. The other day the Army programme was hung up as a consequence of an arrangement made by both sides of the House. I cannot believe that, in the limited time at our disposal, we can make a complete investigation of the proposals of the Admiralty; and some similar device will have to be resorted to in regard to the Navy Votes.

I put this question to the hon. Gentleman and to others who may sympathise with him. Is there to be no limit to these Estimates of our naval expenditure? Are you to go on increasing your Navy and your Army expenditure—because I refuse to separate them? Is there to be no limit to this vast military expenditure in time of peace, because the present war has nothing to do with it? No doubt the tax-paying powers of the country will some day set a limit; but, even apart from that—and here I appeal to the hon. and gallant Member for Great Yarmouth—even if our resources were illimitable, as they are obviously coming to a limit, at least all the authorities tell us so—I deny that it is the right or the duty of this country to go on, unaided, bearing this tremendous Imperial burden of naval expenditure. Why, in the First Lord's statement there is a paragraph about the gunboat "Protector," which the South Australian colony placed at the disposal of His Majesty's Government for service in China. That has been made an enormous deal of, just as all the other assistance given us by the colonies and individuals has been. But this Government seems to blind itself to the fact, and the country also knows it not, that this noble Navy of ours, which I want to see always the strongest on earth, and always in the hands of a Government which will use it for justice—that this noble Navy is as much the servant of our self-governing colonies—I say nothing of the others—as it is of the people of England, Scotland, or Ireland. The people of Ireland complain, to my mind not quite justly, of being overtaxed. Their complaint, so far as it is well founded, may be made also by all the poorer districts in this country, including the poorer parts of London. But Ireland has a much better ground of complaint than this. Ireland is notoriously poorer than the rest of the Empire—poorer that Canada or Australia, man for man. But Ireland, out of its poverty, is compelled to pay for the naval defence of these great and prosperous colonies of Canada and Australia. And what is an Irish grievance is also a grievance to Scotland. The poorest mill girl who drinks tea in my constituency has to pay for the free naval defence of the millionaire squatters of Australia and the millionaire timbermen of Canada. [HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.] Yes; the Secretary for the Admiralty has admitted it, and it cannot be denied. The hon. and gallant Gentleman—the highest authority in this House, and there are not many equal to him out of it—has shown us the true meaning of naval defence, and I could quote words of his own in support of the proposition I have made. When the hon. Member challenges me to say whether these Estimates are too high, I challenge him to say whether we are going on for ever adding to the expenditure for the Navy without making the faintest suggestion that these great self-governing colonies might contribute from their wealth to the Navy, which now is supported by the farthings of the poor as much as by the pounds of the rich in the United Kingdom.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB: The question raised in the latter part of the hon. Gentleman's speech is one that requires the fullest measure of consideration and discussion. I may frankly say that I feel very strongly, and have done so for more years than I care to reckon, that in looking to the future and to the responsibilities cast upon us, we have approached a time when we must ask this question—"Can we go on indefinitely paying for the defence of an Empire which covers all parts of the world out of the resources of an island in but a corner of it?" I am a true Imperialist—I have always been that; but I hate the Imperialism which perorates about the Empire and refuses to face the real question of making the arrangements for its common security a matter of practical and united action of all its parts. I am strongly tempted to say more on this point, but I will not. Nor will I dwell on the way in which we work Imperial defence so far as the United Kingdom is concerned, on a system of water-tight departments. It is not only a wasteful but a pernicious system. We have Army Estimates brought forward one night, and we are told to exclude all considerations of the Navy on these War Estimates. Then we have on another night a Vote of £31,000,000 presented to be spent on the Navy, but you must not take that in relation to the expenditure on the Army. All this will not be remedied until we have a Minister responsible for the general principles of defence of the Empire, saying what is necessary to be spent by the Army and the Navy.

Leaving that question aside, a strong sense of duty and of responsibility to all ranks of the naval service compels me to ask the indulgence of the House while I endeavour, as briefly as I can, to refer to a question of paramount importance, and which is rending opinion in the Navy in twain—I allude to the training of the *personnel* of the Fleet. Within a period of time as short as half the lifetime of a man an absolutely complete transformation has taken place in our ships, and in everything that affects the *personnel*. Owing to the advance in mechanical science, and the application of electricity and steam to ships and to everything appertaining to them—the science of engineering being cosmopolitan—all nations have been brought to the same level. Therefore, we ought to assume that, all these things being equal on the surface of the sea, and producing the same effect, success or failure, when the conflict comes, will depend upon the adaption by a perfect training of character, and in professional knowledge—the perfect training, in fact, of what my right hon. friend the Member for Forest of Dean has called "the human element."

I do entreat the indulgence of the House if I endeavour to bring before hon. Members the condition to which the *personnel* of the Navy has come in the opinion of its own officers, under the conditions forced upon it by the transformation to which I have referred. We must remember that the senior naval officers of to-day imbibed their ideas of training and methods of fighting from conditions that no longer exist, but have entirely passed away. That is to a large extent the reason for the extraordinary differences of opinion which exist in all sections of the Navy at the present time in regard to this important question. I wish to explain that I am not approaching this question as a captious critic. One of the reasons why this question of training has been neglected, is that we have had to alter our naval machinery and keep it running at the same time. I do not wish to hold this Admiralty or this Government, or any other during the last thirty-five years, responsible for the fact that our naval training is at present exceedingly confused. And for this reason, that both the political officers and the naval lords at the Admiralty are so pressed with the routine work in keeping the machine going that they have not time to think out the great problems, or to do more than keep abreast with current business. Admiral Sir John Hopkins, a very distinguished officer, a late Controller of the Navy, and Lord of the Admiralty, has declared within the last two or three months that—

> "Those who administer the Service have quite enough to do without initiating reforms. Nor can their energies be better occupied than in dealing with the multifarious daily duties devolving on them, which, I can assure you, I have found, from some personal experience at the Admiralty, leave little or no time for initiating reforms or improvements in the many subjects dealt with."

Every naval officer who has had the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with Admiralty administrators knows that twenty years ago these were overworked in keeping up the current business; and I wish to draw attention to the fact that they are overworked now, and have not time to give adequate consideration to the problems facing us. Fifteen years ago the Admiralty Board consisted of eight—political officers and naval Lords. Since that time the *personnel* of the Navy has doubled, the annual expenditure on the Shipbuilding Vote has tripled, you have added vast responsibilities in connection with naval works and the arrangements for carrying them out, and what have you added in the way of help for the transaction of all that accumulated business? What have you done? You have simply added one private secretary to the staff of the First Lord of the Admiralty. What has happened under these circumstances is that your present system of training the Navy can be only described as a patchwork plan rather than any system at all. That is the result.

I daresay that hon. Members are fully aware that in the Press this question of the training of the Navy has been much argued, but it has been entirely confined to one branch, and that is the executive branch, which represents only one-fourth of the whole force. There are four branches—the executive branch, the marine branch, the engineer branch, and the civil branch. The civil branch embraces three sub-divisions—the medical, the chaplains, and the accountants and stores. The conditions of naval construction and the changes which science has rendered necessary do not affect the medical or the chaplains' sub-divisions, or the method of keeping accounts and stores. Therefore I will eliminate the civil branch and consider the three remaining branches. The great change of conditions from the old state of things to new machinery has had the effect of approximating the duties of the seamen to that of the marines. These changes have accentuated and extended the possible scope of marines' work and their responsibilities in a ship of war. The education and training of the Marine Artillery and Infantry officers is costly and elaborate, but specially designed to unfit them to keep watch or do general ships' duties. That was foretold forty years ago to a Commission, not by a naval expert, but by Mr. Lindley, who said that the Admiralty were shutting their eyes to the consequences to the *personnel* of steam machinery. That advice was not attended to, and we have gone on up to the present time without fully recognising that fact. But the supreme question at the bottom of all this naval training is the relation of the executive and engineer branches to the working of the ship and to each other. That is a question of supreme moment. The old duties of the executive were really to operate through and by manual labour, organised with the highest skill, in order to drive the ship through the water, and to use effectively all the weapons and appliances of the ship. Now the executive officers simply turn a handle or call down a voice tube to the engineer, whose machinery does the work. The real duty now of the executive branch is simply to direct and apply with courage, with promptness, and complete skill the sum of all that is provided by steam, electricity, and the machinery of the engineer's staff. When you come to consider the tremendous increase in the cost of a ship and the very much greater factor each ship is than it was before in a nation's Navy, the question of the education and training of the men who are to manage that ship is a much more serious one than it ever was before; and this greatly intensifies the importance and the gravity of the selection and training of the executive officers who have to wield this enormous power. The captain who wields that enormous power provided by the engineers and the machinery must be fit to be a captain while he is full of vigour both in mind and body; the probability is that if you cannot produce that man before he is thirty competent to do the work you will never produce him at all. When you remember the limits of age, the short period you have in which to select the raw material in the shape of the boy, and train him up to the finished article, with all the experience and aptitude and knowledge that is necessary for a captain, you can see at once how enormously important is the question of the sort of training you should give to the executive officer who is to handle your ship in the day of battle. The important thing to bear in mind in regard to the difference between the education problem of the executive officers and of the engineers is that in the case of the executive branch it is a question of the readjustment of the training suited to old conditions to the new conditions. The problem of the training of the engineer is different, and it is now really a question of how to develop and improve the character of the training to conditions which have not changed, but are constantly advancing.

The question of executive training has been brought to an issue by the putting out of commission, owing to the exigencies of the South African War, of what was called the Training Squadron in October, 1899. That was a squadron of ships fully rigged, with auxiliary steam power, and it was kept in commission up to October, 1899, as a necessary education for producing in your executive officers qualities which were considered essential to command a ship. That was the object of this Training Squadron which has now been put out of commission. I want to know if we are going to be left without that Training Squadron? What is the policy of the Admiralty on this question? Is this valuable process of developing the faculties of the executive officer to go by the board or is it to be resuscitated? I should like to show what importance has been attached by many officers to this question, and I will give some very brief extracts upon this subject. Lord Charles Beresford writes—

> "Training under masts and yards is valuable for the qualities produced. It makes men thinking beings instead of well-drilled machines."

Commander Nicholson says—

> "I entirely disagree mast and yards are gone. I think we cannot do without them."

Commander Napier, a brilliant officer who has been selected to command a torpedo destroyer flotilla, gives it as his opinion that—

> "Seamen who have undergone mast and sail training are undoubtedly superior men to those who have not. Maximum of efficiency should be aimed at. British seamen should be finest form of seamen afloat."

Then we have Admiral Sir Frederick Richards, who retired a short time ago, say.ng—

> "I hope soon to see the companies returning to their proper ships (old Training Squadron). You have got an established system. You impart by sea-going training ship qualities of nerve, steadiness of head, and quickness of eye which you can impart in no other way."

On the other hand, you have Admiral Sir John Hopkins saying that such training is "not one whit necessary." Then you have Admiral Sir Anthony Hoskins, a most able officer, late Lord of the Admiralty, who says—

> "I do not see how naval officer is going to exist without it."

Admiral Sir Michael Culme-Seymour gives his opinion as follows—

> "Surely the natural way to train men is to train them in the ship in which they are going to serve. All my commands have been in masted ships, but conviction forced upon me that masts and sails are gone for ever."

Admiral Sir Gerard Noel, a very distinguished officer, writes—

> "Discipline of masts and sails must not be relinquished until equally effective substitute is found."

On the other hand, Captain Henderson says—

> "Firm conviction all mast and sail training must be abolished. Only modern seamanship should be taught—helm, compass, and lead, boat, anchor and cable work, splicing and seizing of hemp and wire, fitting, rigging, and of sheers, derricks, coaling appliances, etc."

Admiral Noel writes—

> "In sailing ships younger officers are in really responsible positions."

Admiral Sir Vesey Fitzgerald says that it is not even desirable to have seamen as of old. Sir Anthony Hoskins says—

> "The whole thing (question training squadron) ought to be worked out in the most careful way by the strongest Committee that the Admiralty can institute."

I think that gives sufficient evidence to the House from the highest authorities you can get in the Navy as to masts and yards training. The conflict rages, but the Admiralty do not tell us or the service whether they mean to resuscitate the training squadron or not. I think we are entitled, in view of the opinions I have read, to demand a specific answer to this question—is the policy of the Admiralty that the training squadron shall be revived, or is it not? If the Admiralty are unable to make up their mind it would be better to have a Commission upon it to hear both sides. What I say is that the abolition of that squadron has suddenly brought the Admiralty and the service to the parting of the ways. If this training is necessary to cultivate the qualities in the men who are to command your ships, then you have no business to withhold it. It was in the year 1870 you had your first Committee on the higher education of naval officers, and it resulted in the great extension of the academic and theoretical side of education. It is a strange thing that you never touched the education of the higher officers. The great problems of strategy and tactics have never been touched upon at all until this year. The German and other foreign navies take care to educate their senior officers in the study of naval history and naval strategy, and all their studies are based upon British naval history and strategy. I can hardly congratulate the Admiralty upon the extent of the step they have at last taken by providing £200 a year for this purpose. There was another Committee appointed in 1875 and again in 1886, and only last week a Report was issued on the training of young naval officers. Then follows a new order from the Admiralty which has been long wished for, and agitated for, to secure more sea experience for the young officers. I find that amongst the important changes which have been made the Admiralty have taken out from the seamanship examination for young officers all reference to masts and yards and rigged ships. I presume from that that the policy of the Admiralty is to abolish the training squadron. I also notice that, before an officer will be allowed to act as a lieutenant, he must serve six months as a sub-lieutenant at sea, and receive a certificate from the captain that he is as fit to take charge of a watch at sea as a lieutenant, and to perform the duties of that rank. The gist of the complaints of the Navy is that the training is too academic and theoretical, and not sufficiently practical. I will just give two or three opinions upon this point. Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge, who is now going to take command in Chinese waters, is strongly against the present system, and he protests against the young men being kept on shore so much learning mathematics. He says—

> "Problems of navigation require very moderate amount of mathematical knowledge. Rely on tables. I have never met a naval officer whose mental faculties were strengthened by course of mathematical study. Necessary to put a stop to making proficiency in the 'courses' a passport to promotion."

Lieutenant Carlyon Bellairs, who acted as a correspondent for one of the papers during the Naval Manœuvres, and no mean authority, writes—

> "It is judgment and eyesight wanted, not nursing and academic education. In last manœuvres we never sighted a torpedo boat, yet in ten days the B. fleet sunk one of its own destroyers, the 'Minerva' fought an action with three phantom torpedo boats, and we were reported by our own signal stations as enemy's cruisers, torpedo boats, and so on."

Admiral Sir Edmund Freemantle says that—

> "our naval officers are somewhat deficient in technical scientific knowledge";

and Admiral Sir Vesey Hamilton says—

> "Admiral called on to support diplomatist more likely to do so effectually from knowledge of history and foreign languages than mathematics."

Admiral Fitzgerald says—

> "Midshipmen instead of spending best hours of day in school room should be on deck and boats learning to command men, etc."

That shows the question on the academic side. The fact is that there is too much shore work, and not enough sea work, in the education of our naval officers. Admiral Hopkins declares—

> "To make seamen is to make the seaman's home the ocean. He ought to be moving about it."

Admiral Bridge's opinion is that "shore imitations of weapons and equipment is not training men in ships they will have to fight." Admiral Sir N. Bowden Smith thinks "men-of-war's men are, as a rule, the worst boat sailors in the world." Lieutenant Bosanquet, a promising young officer of great scientific ability, says, in referring to the deterioration of the young officer of the present day—

> "He is dry nursed for five years and receives complex education in gunnery and seamanship, but does not have schooling in sailing ships. Only question of time for deterioration now apparent in officer to be apparent in man."

Admiral Vesey Hamilton's opinion is—

> "I say the system of harbour time is certainly a scandal and disgrace."

I will sum up with two or three words. The controversy in the service over its own training is the result of the conservative instinct of one service clinging to what is old, and being very suspicious of what is new. The controversy may be put in a nutshell in three questions. (1) What is a seaman now? (2) What is the work he has to do? (3) And how is he to be trained to do it? The traditional seaman we all know. We know what he had to do, and how splendidly he did it. But the training which is declared to be necessary by distinguished naval officers is wholly different from that now in vogue. Admiral Fremantle says—

> "Modern seamen must more and more merge in mechanics. This means entire change in training system."

Sir John Colomb.

Admiral Fitzgerald says—

> "Battling with the elements is done by engineers and stokers."

Captain Henderson declares—

> "Bluejacket should be trained to be rough mechanic."

Admiral Hoskins says—

> "You cannot teach all men to be excellent shots, and you cannot get ammunition to do it. The man behind the gun is employed principally in working winches and levers."

These opinions seem really to mean that the executive branch must gravitate towards the engineering branch. It may be true as regards the men, but it cannot possibly be true with regard to the executive officers. The training in the engine-room will be no training to produce those necessary characteristics in the men who are required to command our ships. Keen eyesight in light and darkness, promptness of decision in the presence of the unexpected—these are the qualities essential to the captain of a warship, and they must be cultivated by constant practice and observation on the bridge, and not in the engine-room. In regard to the training of these officers, I trust I have said enough to show that it requires more attention than it seems to receive at the hands of the Admiralty. Admiral Henderson was more than justified when he said—

> "I think our training system throughout wants revision."

Admiral Bowden Smith surely takes the true view when he declares—

> "I do not see how you can consider the training of seamen apart from the rest of the ship's company."

In any case the perfect adaptation of the "human element" to the present conditions of sea warfare is vital to the existence of our Empire. This is a question of the system of selection and training, and it concerns the whole Navy, and not merely one particular branch of it. If it is true that the Lords of the Admiralty have no time to look into so momentous and grave a question as this, and if the adaptation of the "human element" to modern conditions is a question which the Admiralty cannot find time to settle, then I think it ought to be referred to a Royal Commission.

*MR. WILLIAM ALLAN: I rise for the purpose of saying a few words upon the Boiler Committee's Report. I felt sorry that such a Committee should have been appointed, and that such a Report should be issued upon the British Navy. Nevertheless, the Report is there, and it contains a most damning story of the condition of the British Navy at this moment. Why was that Committee necessary? When the Admiralty entered into the idea of substituting water-tube boilers in their magnificent ships I said, and I say now, that they were ruining their ships, and the Report, I am sorry to say, has verified the view. Why did they do that? Why did they enter into this arena of exploded engineering? Water-tube boilers are no new thing. They were a primitive mode of raising steam in bygone years. Does any engineer in this House or in Great Britain think that if the old fathers of engineering—the Napiers, the Scotts, the Dennys, the Elders, and all our great engineering galaxy—had seen any advantages in water-tube boilers they would not have adopted them? They certainly would. The water-tube boiler is a primitive article indeed. If the Admiralty officials—I am not imputing any blame, I shall leave the responsibility to be brought home to them by the House at some time to come—had exercised a little wisdom and caution, and had inquired into what the water-tube boiler had been for marine purposes, they would have had a story something like what I shall tell you in a few brief words.

I shall mention to the House just a few of the attempts to introduce water-tube boilers into the mercantile marine, and I think it is well that the House should know that when this new-fangled notion—I call it nothing else, for it is not pure engineering—was adopted by the Admiralty it was not a thing of the present day. About forty or fifty years ago Mr. Rowan, a great engineer of Glasgow, had the idea that water-tube boilers were the boilers. He fitted them into a vessel called the "Propontis," and what was the result? The boilers exploded and killed many men, and many were scalded. [Laughter.] This is not a laughing question at all. This is a national matter. This is not a party matter. This is a matter that should go to the heart of the British nation, which has to pay millions of money for ships and boilers which you cannot depend upon. What is the use of your ships? Do not let me see any hon. Member laughing. This is a serious matter. I come now to the vessels I saw myself. I come to the "Mark Anthony" and the "Fairy Dell"—vessels which were built thirty-two years ago. They were fitted with what was considered the best water-tube boiler of the day, known as Howard's boiler. There they are again—men scalded, and boiled and injured! The owner of the "Mark Anthony" was brought to grief and ruined. I shall give another illustration from the history of water-tube boilers. I come now to the late Guion Company of Liverpool. Their superintending engineer had the idea that water-tube boilers should be introduced, and they were fitted in the "Montana" and the "Dakota." They were large American passenger-carrying boats. What happened? They were both absolute failures. The boilers were taken out of the vessels with disastrous results to the Guion Company, financially and otherwise. I shall come still further down, and take the "Norman Isles," a boat which was built at Sunderland not long ago. I believe the builder of the boat is an hon. Member of this House. She was 6,000 or 7,000 tons. She was fitted with Babcock and Wilcox boilers. What happened? She did not complete her first voyage. She had to come home to England. I tendered for the new boilers of the type so much condemned by hon. Gentlemen opposite. The Babcock and Wilcox boilers were taken out, and cylindrical boilers were fitted in, with the result of greater economy, safety, and efficiency being obtained. I come now to the Belleville type. It is a very old-fashioned type of French boiler. There is not much difference in the whole lot of them. That boiler was much lauded in this House in former years by Secretaries and First Lords of the Admiralty. That boiler was fitted into a vessel called the "Ohio." That vessel left Hull for America. What happened? Several tubes burst and some men were scalded. The boilers were taken out of her and others put in, and she has been doing her work splendidly since.

I shall now come down to what occurred a few weeks ago. What do we find now? I blush—I think shame—to read the list of the Admiralty vessels that are now lying in our dockyards crippled and useless, and although the hon. Member who represents the Admiralty says the word scrap-iron should not be used, I would ask, What do you call the stuff from the "Hermes"? Is not that scrap-iron? What about the "Europa"? What about all your expense and your vessels lying crippled? If you do not understand what scrap-iron is, it is time you went into a shipyard to see what it means. Why has this great calamity befallen the British Navy? I call it nothing else than a great calamity. I, as an old engineer, can fully realise the great calamity that has overtaken our fleet by the generators that are therein. I will show you in a minute exactly why it has arisen. I have here the Boiler Committee's Report. The Committee sat in 1892, and the Report was issued in 1893. I want to bring this home to the country from one end to the other, and I want to know the reason why this has taken place. I want the House to note clearly that the Report was issued in 1893, and then you can apportion the responsibility on whom you may. The Committee recommend the fitting of tubulous boilers in vessels for experimental purposes. Then mark this, for it is the *crux* of the whole question—

> "It is considered that only those tubulous boilers that are fitted with straight tubes, arranged so as to be readily cleaned and examined, should be considered as suitable for trial with the view, if found satisfactory, to their being fitted in the larger class of warships."

That is the recommendation of the 1893 Committee. "So as to be readily cleaned and examined!" Where is the water-tube boiler which you can clean and examine readily? I know of none. You can't do it. You can't do it in the Belleville or the Babcock and Wilcox boiler. I defy any engineer to say how he can examine it. This Committee guarded itself in a very scientific way. My point is this—Why was that Committee's Report ignored? I believe that at that time the orders were actually given out for Belleville boilers for the "Powerful" and the "Terrible." After the boilers were put into these cruisers they found what they were worth in the results of both ships. The Committee recommended strongly what was to be done, but what do we find? We find that, instead of proceeding cautiously, there is a continuous ordering of French boilers. We find not only that, but also that orders came from Admiralty officials that firms tendering for cruisers and battleships and engines had as a *sine quâ non* to fit up machinery to make these water-tube boilers. I never heard the like of it in all my engineering experience, extending over half a century. The firms were put to an expense of £10,000 or £12,000 to provide machinery for the making of these boilers which this Report condemns.

My sole interest in this matter is what I call the national interest. I have always looked upon this question, as both sides of the House will bear me out, as free entirely from party politics, and as it affects the safety of our Empire, the strength of our first line of defence. But it may be asked, Why did the Admiralty adopt these boilers? Why did they plunge so eagerly in and fit sixty or seventy vessels with these boilers at a cost of hundreds of thousands of pounds? They relied on M. Belleville, in Paris. I do not blame him. He is a smart business man, who came over to this country with his tempting wares, and for want of a little caution and inquiry to get to the bottom of the whole thing on the part of the Admiralty, he has exploited John Bull to the tune of a quarter of a million for royalties, let alone the cost of making the boilers, for they are far dearer than the old ordinary boilers which have given such satisfaction in the mercantile marine all over the world. Ships with the ordinary boilers have run thousands of miles in storm and shine and have never come to grief. You cannot do that with your water-tube boilers. I challenged the Admiralty years ago to run a cruiser over the Atlantic at full speed, and they would not do it. I shall tell you why. If they had attempted to fire the whole of the water-tube boilers at one time, and to take the maximum power out of the engines, the boilers would have come to grief before the ship had been ten hours at sea. Now, forsooth, we are brought face to face with this sorrowful document. I don't wish to be too technical. I am speaking to gentlemen some of whom are engineers, but the majority, I daresay, are not. Some time ago I wrote a little paragraph to enlighten hon. Members that the cause of the failures of these boats I have enumerated in bygone years is exactly the same as now in connection with the warships. I stated in that paragraph that the principle of these boilers is opposed to perfect circulation, and that no fittings, automatic or otherwise, will conquer the natural law of danger inherent in their design. I sincerely hope that I have not been too technical. I say briefly that the water-tube boiler for marine purposes cannot work. You cannot get circulation to ensure safety. The Report of the 1892 Committee says exactly the same thing. The Committee which recently inquired into the subject brought a great amount of engineering science and practical knowledge to bear upon it, and here is their first objection to these boilers—

> "The circulation of water is defective and uncertain, because of the resistance offered by the great length of tube between the feed and steam collectors, the friction of the junction boxes, and the small holes in the nipples between the feed collector and the generator tubes, which also are liable to be obstructed, and may thus become a source of danger."

That is the *crux* of the whole thing. The Committee also say:—

> "The water gauges not indicating with certainty the amount of water in the boiler. This has led to serious accidents."

And so they go on to condemn the boilers. I don't want to labour the subject. I come now to this point: What is to be done to get these ships of ours into first-class steaming condition? It is a patent fact, known to all the world, that you cannot steam your ships full speed. You may creep along at 7, 8, 9, or 10 knots or you may even get up a spurt of 15 knots, but what is the use of designing a boat for 22 knots if you cannot take 15 out of her? That is playing with engineering. The Boiler Committee has unequivocally condemned the boilers. I am not going into the question of who is to blame for it, but I am going into this question. It may be said, rightly up to a certain point, "Oh, we cannot take the boilers out of those ships they are in. It would entail such a delay to our ships, and cost such a lot of money!" All these excuses will be brought forward, no doubt. I ask this question, Is the Board of Admiralty justified in using boilers that have been condemned by their own Committee? I am now coming to the practical point of view, and I am going to speak more directly to the hon. Gentleman who represents the Admiralty. If I were in his position I would come down to this House, and I would stand up there like a man. I would take the House into my confidence, I would frankly admit that we had made a huge blunder, and I would tell the whole story from beginning to end. If you want to be successful when you are in difficulties, all you have to do is to grasp the nettle. I have had my difficulties and mishaps, but I did not run away from them. I did not shelter myself behind a piece of paper or anything of that sort. I have great faith in the hon. Member the present Secretary to the Admiralty. I believe he will do good work. I want him to grasp this water-tube boiler question in a practical way for the safety of the country. I want him to take ship after ship and have the boilers taken out. It would not take so much money as you imagine. I say take these boilers out of His Majesty's Royal yacht first. For the sake of King and Queen that boat must not go to sea with condemned boilers. I sincerely hope the Admiralty will rise to the occasion, and frankly admit that they have made a colossal mistake. Come down to the House and ask for the money to repair the blunder. We are always generous to the Navy. We vote you millions. Do you expect us to be satisfied with ships which cannot steam, and which have boilers that burst? No, you want the best for your money, and you have not got it, I am sorry to say. I warn the House, and I warn the hon. Member the Secretary to the Admiralty that if you experiment more with these water-tube boilers you will come to grief again. You will burn twice the quantity of coal, and you will require 30 or 40 per cent. more firemen, as the Committee found when on board the Cunard s.s. "Saxonia" the other day. That vessel's steaming was an object lesson to the Admiralty.

In conclusion, I say to this House—for the sake of our Navy, for the sake of our first line of defence, for the sake of the protection of our great mercantile marine—we must have the best ships that can be obtained, ships which can be depended upon to steam at their full speed, or to go slow as may be wished. But don't let the *amour propre* of any individual or body of individuals imperil the national safety.

*MR. FITZALAN HOPE (Sheffield, Brightside): I hope I may be excused for touching on a matter which is not purely naval, but I feel that in doing so there are several difficulties in the way. The subject I allude to is the relationship between the Treasury and the Admiralty. I would rather say the bearing upon the Admiralty of the present financial system of the country. The difficulties I feel are these. In the first place, I quite admit that the Admiralty is less subordinate to the financial system of the country than is the War Office, owing to the fact that the great constructing works are largely exempt from the ordinary financial system of the country. In the second place, when we have in power a Government like the present, that knows its duty and does it, the evils of a bad system are minimised; but surely what we should like is not so much a system that is bad bolstered up by the ability of individual Ministers as a system that can support whatever Minister may be in power. I should like to read a few words to the House, although they are familiar already to a large number of Members:—

> "There is the Treasury, and I say that the exercise of its powers in governing every department of State is not for the public benefit. The Treasury has obtained a position in regard to the rest of the Departments of the Government that the House of Commons obtained in the time of the Stuart Dynasty. It has the power of the purse, and by exercising the power of the purse it claims a voice in all decisions of administrative authority and policy. I think that much delay and many doubtful resolutions have been the result of the peculiar position which through many generations the Treasury has occupied."

I understand that by the rules and customs of the House I may not say who uttered these words, or in what place they were uttered, but they were uttered at a time of great national emergency and peril as an excuse for and an explanation of the deplorable situation in which the country found itself some fifteen months ago.

I do not know that the public in this country at all realise what Treasury control means. I remember having read in a novel of a club started by certain young men with the express object of combining parsimony and profligacy. That exactly represents the present financial system of this country. Take any Department you wish, and in one branch of it you will find everything at a standstill. The work necessary to be done has been too much for the original Estimate, and no Supplementary Estimate can be obtained. In another branch of that Department you will find officials tumbling over one another in order to get rid of their balance before the 31st March. What is the result? The result is to deaden responsibility and crush out initiative even on the part of the very best officials. No man in charge of a branch of any Department in the State has any incentive to economy, because he knows if he saves, his work and the work of his Department will not benefit, and that the only result will be an infinitesimal reduction of the National Debt. On the other hand, in some other branch you will find another official who knows from sad experience that he can get no more money and he makes no attempt. He spends what he can get, then throws up the sponge and makes no further effort. Individual cases may not be very serious. It does not matter very much, for example, whether the lavatory accommodation at some public office is not based on the most modern system, but when money is asked for an experiment which may decide the result of a very great war, and when it is denied, that is a matter to which the House and the country should not be indifferent. You cannot, of course, have Departments submitting uncontrolled or unchecked Estimates. If that were to be done a reaction would set in. The Chancellor of the Exchequer should be able to check the total for each Department, and I would earnestly submit—and my opinion is shared by those who know much more about the subject—that the practical control of the Chancellor of the Exchequer should be confined to the totals only, and that, at any rate, the heads of the great spending Departments should have practically a free hand in spending the money given them by Parliament to the best of their judgment and according to the advice of their experts. Of course, if anything of this kind were to be carried out it would be an enormous change, but in the meantime I venture to submit three suggestions.

In the first place I would submit that a department should have the power of meeting a deficit in one branch out of a surplus in another. I know that in the Admiralty and the War Office this may be done, but only by the authority of the Treasury, and I venture to suggest that instead of the authority of the Treasury it should be done by the Order of the King in Council. Secondly, I would venture to suggest that the First Lord of the Admiralty as well as the Secretary of State for War should have some power of meeting an expected expenditure during the recess on their own responsibility. Either you might vote a sum unappropriated which they might on their own responsibility appropriate during the recess, or you might under certain conditions give them the power to raise a certain sum under certain strict conditions. In the third place I would submit that the unexpended balances on all works of construction should be carried over from one financial year to the next. I made this suggestion to a gentleman of great experience, and his answer was, "Young man, you are laying hands on the Ark of the Covenant." Well, Germany has got rid of the Ark of the Covenant altogether and is not a bit the worse. In Germany, in all non-recurrent expenditure as well as in many items for recurrent expenditure, the balances are carried over from one financial year to the next, and in that way those responsible for the management of the department can watch the markets, and buy the right thing in the right way at the right time, and bring to the service of the State the ordinary business methods by which commercial concerns prosper. I know I shall be met with the argument of the constitutional control of Parliament, but what does that control now amount to? Of course there is the Public Acts Committee, but that represents consideration of money that has been expended, not control over money to be expended. If we take the theory and compare it with the practice, we will find that while the theory is complete in practice, the very last thing that is ordinarily discussed is finance. Attacks are made on the responsible heads of departments on the Estimates, but if any attempt were made to argue the Estimates on financial grounds it would be resented by a large number of hon. Members eager to disburthen themselves of all sorts of ideas which have nothing to do with finance. The German system preserves full and adequate control. The accounts show the amount of the Vote of the previous year, the amount brought forward, the amount required for the year out of the revenue of the year, and every information that may possibly be required, and if it is found that the system is being abused, and that large balances are being improperly accumulated, the remedy is simple, namely, to cut down the Vote for the next year. In offering these remarks to the House I must disclaim any idea of an attack on the permanent officials of the Treasury. We have every reason to be proud of them with all their long traditions, their unsullied probity, and their whole-hearted devotion to the State. It is the fault not of the men, but of the system, although in time of war men rise and overcome the system. It is not what is refused in time of war, but the parings and the clippings in times of peace that make the mischief. Many a hundred pounds denied in 1894 meant thousands spent in 1900. The officials live in an atmosphere of their own. They never get directly into touch with the men and things about which they have to decide, and the Treasury officials are two removes from the men and matters they have to decide. The system they have to administer is permeated with the traditions of the Manchester period, and in the course of continual refusal they have become a kind of embodiment of the universal negative.

I venture to submit these suggestions to the House as palliatives only. In my humble opinion we shall not have adequate security for the administration of the Navy until we trust the First Lord of the Admiralty to spend the money that Parliament gives him as his judgment and conscience think fit, in his own way and in his own time.

Mr. KEARLEY (Devonport): My hon. friend the Member for Dundee stated that the sum of money taken this year for new expenditure is larger than ever, but at all events it is some consolation to us to know that the greater portion of it is going to be spent on the completion of work already in hand. As regards the remainder of the sum which represents what is called the new programme, it only amounts to half a million, and I think we need not pay any serious attention to that programme. There are thirty vessels contemplated in it; but this policy of putting down before the House of Commons a number of vessels to be built that will not be touched —and the Admiralty know it—at the end of the year no longer misleads anyone. We have become thoroughly accustomed to it. It will be time enough to consider the new proposals when the keel plates have been laid down. Two of the ships voted last year were only laid down ten days ago.

Now I wish to say a word about these arrears. The hon. Gentleman who is now responsible for the Admiralty in this House, and of whom we have great expectations, frankly admitted the state of affairs when he told us that of the twenty-three battleships voted since the completion of the "Majestic" class only five had been completed. I believe it is true that four are commissioned, but one certainly is not. If we consider the dates when these various ships were laid down, it is certain that there ought to be five more of these battleships completed before the end of the present year, and there ought to be added to our Navy ten valuable first class battleships, all of which have been delayed. This delay does not only extend to battleships. The hon. Gentleman has told us that since the completion of the "Diadem" class thirty cruisers had been voted, and a great many of them ought to be ready by now. We get the same explanation year by year. Mr. Goschen one year took refuge in the engineers' strike, which was undoubtedly a factor at that time, but it is trotted out again by the hon. Member as being still a factor. I think the strike ought now to be struck off the effective list, because, whatever effect it may have had in 1897, we are now through other causes going from bad to worse, and the delay which might be considered valid in the circumstances of 1897 has now become absolutely chronic. This delay applies to all kinds of material and to all ships, whether they are being built in His Majesty's yards or elsewhere. It applies to armour, machinery, guns, and hulls. The other evening the hon. Gentleman informed us that armour was mainly responsible for the delay. We know that in recent years there have been three changes in armour, but it must be said that the Admiralty themselves are mainly responsible for the existing delays. They do not give their specifications out until months after a ship has been laid down, and consequently the armour manufacturers have no opportunity to complete the armour in such a time as would be necessary to enable the ship to be finished at the earliest possible moment. Therefore the Admiralty are not entitled to say that all these delays are attributable to the contractors. Many of them are due to the methods—or rather the lack of method—of the Admiralty.

The hon. Gentleman endeavoured to console us with the statement that we still hold our lead in expeditious shipbuilding. In 1894 we did pride ourselves that we could build battleships quicker than any other nation. That was then true, but that disadvantage has altogether disappeared, and we are lucky indeed to-day if we can get a battleship completed within four years of its being laid down, whereas in 1894 we turned out two of our finest ships, the "Majestic" and the "Magnificent," in two years. At the present moment Germany is rapidly giving us the go-by, and if we drag along in this way I am confident that in two or three years time we will find that Germany has gone ahead of us. Germany has ample resources and also the determination to put things through in a practical, businesslike manner. Russia, which we do not take to be a nation of enormous energy, has turned out a cruiser, the largest ever launched, in thirty months. We are not able to turn out a cruiser of such magnitude in thirty months. We would want three or four years. We are told that it is the English contractors that bring about all these delays, but it is curious that a British contractor can build for foreign nations ships of almost identical size in two years. The Japanese have had completed in this country by contract two of the finest battleships afloat, and they were delivered in a little over two years. Why cannot we get similar work from the contractors? It is not that they are not patriotic; it is the Admiralty themselves that are mainly responsible. They will not put orders for machinery in hand until the hull has been building for a long time, and they delay their specifications for armour and so on. However, it is a very simple matter if the contractors are at fault. It is the easiest thing in the world to make the date on which a ship is to be delivered part of the contract. What is the difficulty in the way of doing that? At all events the danger is fully recognised in the country. Supposing we are suddenly plunged into a naval war, would it not be a great reflection on the Admiralty when the country realised that they were short of probably ten battleships which ought to have been in existence? That would jeopardise the whole position. Again, we know very well in these critical times that on our foreign stations we have ships that are obsolete in the sense that they are not the very best ships we are capable of producing, whereas our competitors have the very best ships they have been able to produce. Another danger is that in the Mediterranean we are wofully short of cruisers. The Admiralty may say that they have these cruisers in our yards and can commission them at short notice, but a ship commissioned at short notice is less effective than a ship which is already in commission.

How do the Government propose to deal with these arrears? They are going once more to resort to the expedient of appointing a Committee to advise them as to the cause of the delays and how they can be obviated. They are going to call into a great public Department outside experts to tell them how to manage their business. Sir Thomas Sutherland and other men of great experience are on the Committee. But it is humiliating that the Admiralty, with all its traditions and all its opportunities for obtaining experience, have to invoke outsiders to explain to them what has happened, and to prevent it happening again. I hope we shall not always be subject to outside experts' information on these matters.

As to the *personnel*, we are going to vote a greater number of men than ever before, an increase of nearly 4,000. It would be interesting to know how many of the men voted last year are borne at present. I see there was a deficiency of 2,600 at the beginning of the year, and I have no doubt the hon. Gentleman will be able to tell us as to the actual number now borne. There are many of us who hold the opinion, despite the large numbers we have been voting for the last year or two, that we will not have enough men to man the ships which will be finished within the next twelve months. It is estimated that ten ships will be completed, and they alone will exhaust 7,000 men, apart from the cruisers altogether, and it is estimated by some of us that there will be a deficit, in one direction or another, of at least 10,000 men, that there will be no margin to meet a large addition to the Fleet. I will illustrate what I mean by taking the First Lord's own statement. Last year we recruited 2,630 men for the Marines, but at the same time we lost 2,165, so that the net gain was only 465 men. Again, it is notorious that we are unable to secure the number of skilled ratings we require, the reason being that we are trying to get them at a lower rate than the market justifies. The result is that we not only do not get the quantity, but what we do get is not of a high quality.

The alternative presented by the hon. Gentleman to a large increase of the active list is the strengthening of the Reserve. At the present moment the Royal Naval Reserve is not popular. There has been a serious decrease in that service, and if we want to make it popular and to increase it we will have to make friends with the shipowners. We turn our backs on the shipowners, who are the only men who have it in their power to give us the sort of young men we require. If we can induce the shipowners to help then we will rehabilitate the Reserve and make it as it used to be —something worth talking about. The whole system brought forward by Mr. Goschen about two years ago has absolutely broken down. He told us that we had a paper Reserve, but that he was determined, come what might, to give us a trained Reserve. He called on men to go to sea compulsorily for six months in the first year, and when we were anxious in the following year to know how that worked out we were told that it was working very successfully, although some of us did not think so. Now, however, it is admitted that it has broken down. The real reason why it has broken down is that you cannot expect men to give up their shore occupations and go to sea for six months. We are now told that the six months period has been abandoned, that three months has been substituted, and that even that will not be compulsory. The Admiralty have now started a new Reserve altogether, to be called the Fleet Reserve. The Fleet Reserve is a new experiment, but whatever happens to it every man in it will be a trained man. We are told that the Admiralty expects to have 7,000 men in this Reserve. That is very misleading, because you are transferring 5,000 men from the Seamen's Pensioners Reserve, which consists of men who have served their full time.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I explained that clearly, and stated the number that would be transferred.

MR. KEARLEY: I am not in the least imputing anything to the hon. Gentleman, but the fact remains that these 7,000 men are not new men. There is no particular feature about the A scheme except that you are admitting Marines for the first time, but that scheme will not be available until 1923, because it will be twenty-two years before boys entering the service now can pass to the Reserve. The inclusion in the Reserve of short service men who have only served their first term will have very far-reaching consequences, because in effect it is the commencement of a short service system in the Navy, and whether it will be beneficial or not, it is impossible to say. Navy men are strong advocates of doing nothing to encourage short service in the Navy, but this provision will undoubtedly encourage men to leave at the expiration of their first term of service instead of serving on for a continuous service pension. I think it will be bound to be attractive because the men are to be paid 3s. 6d. a week, and at fifty-five years of age will have a pension of £12 a year. You may benefit the Reserve, but you certainly will not benefit the long service system in the Navy. The Admiralty have, however, protected themselves to some extent by limiting the number of the B Reserve to 15,000. With regard to the artificers, if they are still to be part of the scheme I would suggest that there would be more needed in the dockyards. However, that is a matter which can only be tested by time.

I have just two questions to ask on matters relating to South Africa. As the hon. Gentleman is aware, the Government have announced that they intend to give pensions to the widows of the soldiers who have fallen in South Africa. Naturally that must be extended to sailors also. What I want to know is whether the Admiralty have considered the question, or whether they have decided to revive the Greenwich pensions, because the amount to be given by the Government is 5s. a week, whereas the Greenwich pension is only 3s. 6d. The other question is with reference to the treatment of the warrant officers who have distinguished themselves in South Africa. Their conduct has been testified to by commanding officers and generals in the field. I am not quite sure of the exact number of warrant officers concerned, but certainly five, if not more, were mentioned in despatches. All the soldiers and the naval officers who have been mentioned have received recognition either by promotion or the D.S.O., but none of the warrant officers except one have received any recognition whatever. There is a difficulty in the matter I know, because the regulations governing the D.S.O. limit it to commissioned officers, and with regard to promotion there is a great dislike on the part of the warrant officers themselves to be made senior to those senior to them on the list. Still we are bound to give these men some recognition, and I would ask the hon. Gentleman to tell us what he proposes to do. He informed me the other day that the matter was under consideration. I know what that means in the ordinary way, but I hope that genuine attention is being given to this matter, and that the hon. Gentleman will be able to tell us that the regulations have been amended so that warrant officers may be included in the D.S.O. This is a matter affecting the whole of the lower deck, and I hope the hon. Gentleman will be able to give us some assurance regarding it.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said that he had put on the Paper an Amendment which he proposed to move with reference to colonial contributions to the Navy, but he now understood that he would not be in order in moving it. He would, however, direct the attention of the House to what he considered a most unjustifiable thing in connection with the maintenance of the Navy. As far as he could gather, the contributions of the colonies to the maintenance of the Navy were insignificant and altogether insufficient when the great services which the Fleet performed for the colonies were considered. He knew that Australia contributed a very insignificant amount, though he could not find what the exact sum was, and he would ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he would be good enough to make a statement showing clearly how much was contributed directly or indirectly by any or all of the colonies towards the maintenance of the Navy. Ireland, which was called upon to pay a very large sum, received directly, at all events, very little return, and it was manifestly unjust that an impoverished country like Ireland should be called upon to contribute some millions to the Navy while rich and flourishing colonies were not asked to contribute practically anything at all. He maintained that Australia, Canada, and other colonies derived directly a great deal more profit and benefit from the existence of the British Navy than Ireland did. Australia had a large number of ships continually in her waters, and yet contributed practically nothing towards the Navy. He had heard the question of Imperial Federation mentioned, but whether Imperial Federation was good or bad, he would certainly say that they ought to have Imperial Federation to the extent that every colony desiring the presence and services of ships of the British Navy should in common fairness be called upon to subscribe towards the maintenance of the Navy. They were told about the great devotion of the colonies to the Mother Country, and of the great services which colonials had rendered to the Empire in South Africa, but it was certainly extraordinary notwithstanding all that talk that these great self-governing colonies made no contribution to the Fleet on which they depended for the protection of their commerce. With regard to Cape Colony the matter was somewhat different. If he was not mistaken, Cape Colony contributed £30,000 a year, and it was an extraordinary coincidence that directly after Cape Colony, which had a Dutch majority, decided to contribute to the maintenance of the Imperial Navy, war was declared in South Africa. That was a bad return to make for the action of the Cape Parliament, and at a time, too, when a Dutch ministry was in power and there was a Dutch Prime Minister at the Cape. Was it fair that the already overtaxed people of Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales should be called upon to bear the whole cost of the Imperial Navy? He was surprised that the question had not been raised by some English Member of Parliament, as he thought it was a question upon which almost all parties agreed.

There was also another matter which he desired to mention. He had repeatedly asked questions in the House as to whether the Admiralty could not from time to time send a cruiser round the coast of Ireland to protect the fisheries from illegal trawling. He had asked Mr. Goschen—he thought he was Lord Goschen now, but was not quite certain, as the rapidity with which some people became ennobled was bewildering—but he refused to send a single ship to protect Irish fisheries. Last summer, in Wexford, where he was living, fishermen complained to him that steam trawlers were destroying their fishing grounds, and they wished to know whether the Government would do anything for them. He told them that he had asked questions on the subject, but got very little satisfaction. The fishermen said that, although the taxpayers of Ireland were paying a considerable amount towards the maintenance of the Navy, they hardly ever saw a battleship at all. Surely it was not too much to expect that the Admiralty would send some of their small ships to patrol the fishing grounds from time to time. He asked the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he could not undertake that this slight return might in future be given to Irish taxpayers in compensation for their contributions to the Navy. That was a demand which he thought every fair-minded man would support. He had heard hon. Members from Scotland making the same complaint as regarded Scotch fisheries, and he hoped there would be a change in the attitude hitherto adopted by the Admiralty. It was one of the things which made Irishmen dissatisfied with the system of Government in Ireland. They paid millions towards the Navy, but the great majority of the Irish people, even those living on the seaboard, never saw a ship at all. Of course, the stock argument was that the British Navy was to protect the coast of Ireland from invasion. That was absurd. If Ireland ever needed the protection of the Fleet it was simply because of her connection with England. If Ireland were left to herself no other country would interfere with her.

It being midnight, the debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed To-morrow.

SUPPLY [MARCH 15TH].

Resolutions reported :—

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1901–2.

1. "That a number of Land Forces, not exceeding 450,000, all ranks, be maintained for the Service of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland at Home and Abroad, excluding His Majesty's Indian Possessions, during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £21,657,500, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge for the Pay, Allowances, and other Charges of His Majesty's Army at Home and Abroad (exclusive of India) (General Staff, Regiments, Reserve, and Departments), which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

Resolutions read a second time.

First Resolution :—

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

The House divided :—Ayes, 208 ; Noes, 55. (Division List No. 85.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Asher, Alexander
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r.
Balfour, Rt. Hn. Ger. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Bignold, Arthur
Bill, Charles
Black, Alexander William
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. Sir John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Caldwell, James
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cawley, Frederick
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colville, John
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cubitt, Hon Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Duncan, James H.
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elibank, Master of
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn E.
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George A.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward A.
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Fuller, J. M. F.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Sir E. W. (Bury St. Ed.
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (Mid'x

Hanbury,Rt.Hon.RobertWm.
Hardy,Laurence(K'nt,Ashf'rd
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur H. (Hanley)
Heath, Jas. (Staffords.,N.W.)
Henderson, Alexander
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hope,J.F.(Sheffield,Brightside
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)

Johnston, William (Belfast)
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)

Kearley, Hudson E.
Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W.(Salop.
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees

Lambton,Hon.FrederickWm.
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leighton, Stanley
Leveson-Gower,FrederickN.S.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(BristolS.
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Lucas, Col.Francis(Lowestoft)
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred

Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Crae, George
M'Killop,James(Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriessh.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Molesworth, Sir Lewis

Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, Robt. J. (Shropshire)
Morgan,DavidJ. (Walthamst.
Morgan,Hon.F.(Monmouthsh.
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morton,ArthurH.A(Deptford)
Morton,Edw.J.C.(Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Rbt. Gray C.
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray,RtHnA.Graham(Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry
Murray,Col.Wyndham(Bath)

Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian

Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Peel,HnWm.RobertWellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pirie, Duncan V.
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Priestley, Arthur
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Pym, C. Guy

Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reckitt, Harold James
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley,Hn.M.W(Stalybridge)
Ridley,S.Forde(BethnalGreen
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson,Herbert (Hackney)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Royds, Clement Molyneux

Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler,Col. Samuel Alexander

Scott, Sir S.(Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Shaw-Stewart,M.H.(Renfrew)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, E.)
Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley,Hon.Arthur(O'msk'rk
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir JohnM.
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley

Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thomas,F.Freeman-(Hastings
Thomas, J. A. (Glam., Gower)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomkinson, James
Tomlinson, W. Edw. Murray
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tufnell, Col. Edward

Ure, Alexander

Valentia, Viscount

Walker, Col. William Hall
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
Welby, Lt.-Col.ACE(Taunton
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (Notts
Whiteley, Geo. (York, W. R.)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton u.Lyne)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. Stanley(York,E.R.
Woodhouse,SirJT(Huddersf'd
Wortley,Rt. Hon.C.B.Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young,Commander(Berks,E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham,William(Cork,N.E.
Ambrose, Robert

Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bell, Richard
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Burke, E. Haviland-

Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.

Daly, James
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.

Farrell, James Patrick
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher

Gilhooly, James

Hammond, John
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne,Rt.Hon.Charles Seale-

Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Joyce, Michael

Kennedy, Patrick James

Leamy, Edmund
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien,Kendal(TipperaryMd
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)

O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, J. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John

Power, Patrick Joseph

Reddy, M.
Redmond, JohnE.(Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roche, John

Sullivan, Donal

Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

Second Resolution :—

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND said his reason for interfering on this Vote was because when he called attention to a certain matter the other day for some reason or other his questions were absolutely ignored. He was, therefore, under the necessity of putting his questions again. He wished to call attention to the extraordinary increase in this Vote. If the British people were content to pay these increasing sums year after year they would soon find they would become an annual call, and there would be no ending to the course upon which they had entered. In the last five years the Army Estimates had almost doubled, and would in all probability, if the present policy were continued, be doubled again during the next five years. The Government of this country were animated by a wretched spirit of Imperialism, and the spectacle of Continental Powers draining their resources and starving their people to maintain huge standing armies was being followed in this country. It was impossible for England to imitate with success or rival the immense establishments on the Continent. It was an appalling thing for Irish Members to come there and see such enormous increases in the cost of the military establishments. Under the new arrangements there was to be an army corps in Ireland, but otherwise Ireland would get absolutely no return for the millions she was called upon to contribute towards these Estimates. The vast majority of the Irish people had shown by the attitude of their representatives in Parliament that they took no responsibility for the war in South Africa, which they considered was unnecessary and unjust, and it was their bounden duty to protest against it in every possible way. With regard to the Vote before the House, it would be the worst form of madness until the War Office had been reformed to trust the expenditure of this money to as incompetent a set of men as it was possible to imagine. They had got a new Secretary of War, but until the reforms foreshadowed by him had been carried out and the whole system changed it was a very foolish thing for the people of this country to send good money after bad. The money voted last year and the year before had been squandered in a most reckless and extravagant way, bringing about defeats and disgraces in the field, and in all human probability the money they were now asked to vote would be spent just as badly and foolishly, and would be muddled away as in the past. In trying to rival Continental Powers they were departing from the best traditions of England and entering upon a course which would probably bring disaster and bankruptcy upon this country. The moral of his appearance this second time was that when he asked a question in a civil way he was entitled to a civil answer.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY to the WAR OFFICE (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton): I put down the hon. Member's questions upon the last occasion when this Vote was before the Committee to answer, but when I came to reply I found that the hon. Member had gone out of the House and was not in his place at the time, or I should have answered him.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND said he acquitted the noble Lord of any act of discourtesy towards himself, but he was mistaken. As a matter of fact, he was in the House and heard the reply. He might have been sitting under the shade of the Gallery. When he asked questions in the future he would take the precaution to make himself as prominently visible as possible. A great many people outside the House and in the ranks of the Army were seriously waiting for an explanation how it came to pass that a certain section of the forces in the field in South Africa were receiving as much as 5s. a day, whereas the ordinary soldiers of His Majesty's Regular Army were receiving something in the neighbourhood of 1s. They had heard a good deal about the valour and bravery of the Dublin Fusiliers, the Welsh Fusiliers, the Connaught Rangers and the Gordon Highlanders, but what the people wanted to know was how it was that the men of those heroic battalions, who suffered most in hardships and losses, had only been receiving the ordinary miserable pay of 1s. a day, whereas the troops from the colonies were receiving 5s. a day? That was a monstrous injustice. They heard a good many dreadful and miserable stories of returned soldiers, of men crippled for life, finding their way into the workhouse both in Ireland and in this country. There were hundreds of people in Ireland, men, women, and children, who were now in the direst distress in consequence of this cruel war. They heard these things in Ireland, and contrasted the misery of their people with the position of the men who came from the colonies, and were receiving what to the poor Irish peasants seemed the prince's pay of 5s. a day.

But his main reason for rising was to expose what he held to be a fraud on the part of those people who endeavoured to prove that because colonial troops had gone to South Africa, therefore the colonies were in sympathy with the war. It proved nothing of the sort. He had lived in Australia and read their papers, and he maintained that the mass of the people there were not in sympathy with the war, and that if a vote were asked in any Australian Parliament in aid of the war it would not be passed. "Oh," it would be said, "how was it, then, that so many thousand sons of the Empire came from every colony in Australia and from New Zealand to take their place in the campaign side by side with the troops of the British Army?" It was the 5s. a day. In Australia there were a great number of men who were accustomed to an open-air life, who were fond of riding and of wild, frontier-like life, and who, if you gave them a good horse, 5s. a day, and the prospect of some excitement, would go anywhere. If the War Office were to reduce the pay to 1s. a day, the same as that given to the Dublin Fusiliers and the Gordon Highlanders, they would see what the effect would be. Recruits would at once fall off. He wanted to know how many men were receiving 5s. a day, how much it came to, and who were getting it?

MR. DALY (Monaghan, S.) supported his hon. friend in protesting against this very large Vote being passed at that hour of the morning. He did not wonder at the Government being forced into this unjust and unholy war, because there was such an amount of money spent in the dockyards, in the manufacture of arms, and in trade in England generally. The whole of the people of England were making money out of the war, while the people of Ireland did not get a sixpence. It was therefore the duty of the Irish Members to vote against this Vote. He saw that a million was to be paid to the Imperial Yeomanry, but if they all showed as little valour in the future as they had done at Lindley he would not spend a shilling on them. He also saw that £650,000 was down for the colonial contingent. Now, in regard to this matter a great deal had been said as to the number of troops that had come from the colonies. So far as his memory went, this great number only amounted to 600. He thought there would be no difficulty of getting 600 corner boys, gutter boys, or men, probably, discharged from gaol, who would go over to South Africa for 5s. a day—not being able to earn a living in the country where they were—while the unfortunate soldiers from this country were only getting 10d. or 1s. a day. He had heard the hon. Member talking of the patriotism of the men from the colonies, but it was a five-bob-a-day patriotism. If they had only offered one bob a day they would not have had a single man from Australia coming to South Africa to fight their battles. Instead of the war being over, as was said months ago, it was only beginning, because they were asked for four millions more money than last year. He would move the reduction of the Vote by five millions, by way of protest against this extraordinary increase in the money asked for the Army, and if the Government were defeated it would be a very satisfactory result. In fact, it would be a very proud achievement on his part, and very possibly the Government would be glad to get out of the situation. Considering all the bother on their hands they were in a most unenviable position, for the taxpayers of this country as well as in Ireland were up in a small rebellion against them. He begged to move the reduction of the Vote by five millions.

*MR. SPEAKER: No Amendment for the reduction of the Vote on this resolution is in order, as I have already put the question.

MR. J. P. FARRELL thought that of all the forces which had been raised for the war, that which was likely to be of the least utility in the field was the Imperial Yeomanry. It was largely composed of boys of not more than sixteen years of age. He was travelling not long since between London and Holyhead, when an Imperial Yeoman, a mere boy, joined the train. He said, in answer to questions, that he was to sail from Dublin for South Africa the following Wednesday, that his father and brother were engaged in the war, and that it was on that account that he had been accepted for service. The lad's youthful appearance struck him so forcibly that he asked him his age, to which he replied that he was sixteen years; and he did not look a day older. Then he asked the boy how he had passed the standard, and the lad replied that there was no bar to entering the Imperial Yeomanry. In all sincerity he held that it was really a crime to take these schoolboys and send them to South Africa to be shot. He merely related the incident to show the class of men that were being engaged, and the manner in which money was being spent. It could not possibly be argued that such a young lad could be of any utility on service. He himself knew similar cases, and he therefore thought that the Vote for the Imperial Yeomanry was money absolutely wasted.

With reference to the general question of the administration of the War Office, the hon. Member for East Clare spoke with great force, and with his accustomed ability, on the tremendous indictment laid against the War Office by hon. Members on that side, and also by the service Members. He thought that they should have some definite assurance that the subject was not going to be shelved. Whenever the Government were in a difficulty over any question, a Commission was promised for the purpose of shelving it, and nothing was really done. It was not fair to submit such large Supplementary Estimates without a definite assurance being given that the administration of the Department would in future be conducted on better lines. If the War Office were to be conducted in the future as, according to recent revelations, it had been conducted in the past, the sooner it was abolished altogether the better. The state of things disclosed between the two noble Lords at the head of the Department would lead one to suppose that they were boys squabbling at school rather than Ministers engaged in protecting the State. Under the circumstances they were quite entitled to press that such a state of things should be put an end to. He quite understood why the noble Lord did not reply to the trenchant criticisms of his hon. friend. It was very difficult to reconcile the ordinary rank and file to a shilling a day while other men were getting 5s., who had not borne the heat and burden of the fight. It was, however, absolutely necessary that some explanation should be given, because he knew from reliable information that at Aldershot and other military stations the greatest dissatisfaction was being manifested among the private soldiers. If the differentiation were to be continued he should not be surprised if it became more and more difficult to obtain recruits for the Regular Army. No doubt the Department might increase the inducements to enlist, but it would be a long time before the disagreeable impression created by the special treatment given to the Yeomanry would be removed, or before the ordinary Tommy Atkins would be convinced that his services had been as well recompensed as the emergency men who had been sent to South Africa. The Irish people were opposed to the war. They had in every way open to them denounced it as impolitic and unjust, and yet they were to be compelled to pay an unjust share of its expenses. He trusted his hon. friends would mark their disapproval of the policy of the Government by dividing against the Vote.

*MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland) said that in listening to the remarks of hon. Gentlemen opposite, he found it difficult to know whether to treat them seriously or not. One thing he was perfectly certain of, and that was that, although hon. Members might speak for certain parts of Ireland, they did not speak for the vast majority of Irishmen throughout the Empire.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Let the hon. Gentleman try the issue in Ireland.

*MR. CATHCART WASON said he knew more of Irishmen abroad than hon. Gentlemen, who utterly misrepresented their views. He would not have ventured to have interfered in the discussion were it not for the grossly calumnious utterances of hon. Members opposite. Hon. Members talked of 5s. a day, but that was no remuneration for the soldiers of the colonies who went to fight the battles of the motherland; and if the motherland did not desire to pay them at all they would have served for nothing. He had the honour of a seat in the New Zealand Parliament when the question of sending troops came forward, and Irishmen of all shades—Orangemen as well as Catholics—were unanimous in voting sufficient money to send a contingent to South Africa, and after that not only one, but several were sent. Feeling in the colonies was absolutely unanimous in favour of the war, and as far as he knew not a single voice was raised against it. He had heard opinions quoted from newspapers of which he had never heard, although he had lived most of his life in the colonies. It was said there was no feeling in the colonies in favour of the war, but he said there was, because the colonies realised that their whole existence depended on the successful termination of the war. Every class in the community contributed either money or comforts for the men who were to fight in defence of the motherland. Therefore, when hon. Members spoke as they had spoken to-night, he said most emphatically that they did not speak for Irishmen throughout the Empire. With all due respect to hon. Members from Ireland he did not believe in their disloyalty. He believed that if the country were put to the pinch to-morrow they would also support her, and that all their talk was the merest bluster. He firmly believed that it was not disloyalty. The Irish Members were probably just as loyal as other Members of the House, and they would die in the ditch to-morrow if duty called. He emphatically protested against the accusations which had been made against the colonists that they only came to the help of the mother country for the miserable 5s. a day. The great body of those who volunteered for service in South Africa were people who left good situations. Farmers left their farms, merchants left their business, and lawyers left their briefs. Everyone was anxious to subscribe, to assist and volunteer their services. The colonists had been libelled in two most atrocious speeches. It was enough to make the blood of any person boil within him. [AN IRISH MEMBER: They took the five bob all the same.] The answer to that was perfectly simple. The pay was simply temporary pay and for a temporary reason; it did not carry any further liability with it; whereas the men who received 1s. a day were professional persons. The hon. Members from Ireland knew that as well as he did.

MR. O'MARA (Kilkenny, S.) said the hon. Member who had just sat down was bubbling over with enthusiasm and loyalty and indignation, but he did not state what circumstances prevented him from going to South Africa. [AN HON. MEMBER: Age.] He said the colonists were boiling over with enthusiasm and loyalty. It was within the knowledge of the House that Canada had within the last few months refused to send more troops to South Africa. Did that prove that the colonies were boiling over with enthusiasm? There could be no doubt that the pay of 5s. a day was an immense inducement to people who had not regular employment to enlist as volunteers in His Majesty's Army. It was a fact that most of the people in the Irish constituencies were opposed to the war in South Africa. It was a fact that the colonies were not so opposed. The difference arose from the fact that the colonies had self-government and Ireland had not. Let them give Ireland self-government, and conciliate the people, and it might be that they would be as loyal as the colonies. The hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland said the Nationalist Members were there to obstruct the business of the House. Apart from the fact that such a phrase was not in order, the Nationalist Members were perfectly within their right in discussing these Votes at great length that night, and they deserved every facility from the House, as they were not interfering with the Government time. Perhaps they were interfering with the convenience of some hon. Members, but surely they were patriotic enough to sit up a few hours in the morning to hear some reasonable discussion. He hoped that Members on both sides of the House would join the Nationalist Members in making the Army what it should be—an efficient army. There was no doubt whatever that this country would be unable to recruit a force of 450,000 men by any other means than conscription. One matter on which the country had made up its mind was that it would not endure conscription at any cost. The Army of this country was a voluntary army, and to keep up the requisite number of men they must pay the ordinary rate of wages at which unskilled labour could be got in the country. Unskilled labour could command more than 1s. a day. The wages of agricultural labourers in the worst paid districts in England was 12s. a week, practically all found. He submitted that they would get none but the worst class of the community at 1s. a day. Of the 450,000 men 400,000 were common soldiers or non-commissioned officers, and they only got in regimental pay £10,000,000, and the other 50,000 received £11,000,000. This unequal method of distributing the money voted for the Army would result in the failure to recruit the necessary number of men. To recruit a voluntary army it was necessary not only to pay a wage equivalent to that paid in the labour market, but also to provide special attractions to men who were asked to risk their lives. In their scheme, however, the Government had increased the number of men and decreased the attractions. Under the heading G the gratuities and soldiers' discharges only amounted to £200,000, as against £310,000 last year. That was a reduction of 33 per cent., although an immense number of men would be discharged during the present year; and they were to have no reward for risking their lives in the war, and the unfortunate enteric patients who had returned would have nothing to help them on. He could not understand the reduction. Another matter which showed that the Government intended to resort to compulsory recruiting was that the item for recruiting had also been reduced. Of course it was plain that it would cost more to recruit an army when the jingo fever had passed away, and it was clear to his mind that sooner or later the Government intended to force conscription on the country unless the House of Commons put a stop to their present policy in time.

The Secretary of State for War boasted that his scheme would increase the efficiency of the Army, but he could find no trace of increased efficiency in the Estimates he was criticising. The efficiency of the Army could be increased in several ways, the principal one being to give the men better training. They all knew that the artillery practice in the war was wretchedly bad, and it would therefore have been thought that more money would have been devoted to gunnery establishments. Instead, however, the Vote for the School of Gunnery had only been increased by £1.400, which he submitted was a miserable increase for the purpose. If the efficiency of the Army were to be increased it was essential that more guns and better guns should be provided, and the increase under that head was, in his opinion, absolutely insufficient. Then in reference to engineering, the Boer farmers, who were never trained in the art of war, were able to entrench themselves so as to be practically invulnerable, simply because they knew how to use the pick and shovel. The increase under that head was only £1,200, which was also insufficient. The marksmanship of the Army, too, was very bad, but the amount to be devoted to it was only increased by £4,000. Hon. Members from Ireland were entirely opposed to the war, but that was no reason why they should not endeavour to limit the expenditure on the Army, and that expenditure could only be limited by making the Army efficient. The hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland spoke about loyalty, but he observed that the pay of the South African local forces had been reduced by £350. He wished to know whether that reduction was accompanied by a decrease in the number of men, and, if it were, was that a sign of loyalty?

He wished to call attention to the enormous Supplementary Estimates which were brought forward in connection with matters which could very well have been foreseen. The Estimates were presented in this form merely for the purpose of blinding the people of the country to the enormous expenditure being incurred by the Government. Tory Governments had the reputation of always putting money into circulation, and the present Government had worthily upheld the tradition. The reduction of £17,000 with regard to the China Expedition was altogether uncalled for, especially in view of the fact that at the present moment a war with Russia was quite within the bounds of possibility. The messing allowances for officers and the amount of band expenses were perfectly ridiculous, and if the taxpayers only knew how their money was being wasted they would lose the little remaining confidence they had in the War Office. The matters revealed by these Estimates showed that the Secretary of State for War had fallen a victim to the red tape of the War Office, and drifted in the steps of his predecessors. The hon. Member confidently predicted that, instead of efficient troops, the country would possess a very inefficient Army unless the principle of conscription was applied. There had been a terrible increase in the ordinary military expenditure, the amount now being about £21,000,000, and the country was paying much more for its small voluntary army than France was paying for its army of 3,000,000 men, or Germany with its 4,000,000. The present proposals of the Government were a first step towards conscription, but although the people of England had forgiven many things in order that the South African war might be carried on, they would never forgive the Government if through it they were forced to adopt the principle of conscription.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Guildford): The hon. Member who has just spoken expresses the hope that the hon. Members around him would not fail to follow him with long speeches in support of the view he was taking, and certainly, to judge by the length of his own speech, he set them a good example in that direction. But I would make an appeal to hon. Gentlemen opposite to remember the position in which we stand with regard to this matter. The Vote has been placed on the Paper, no doubt, at a late hour, on a distinct understanding between the First Lord of the Treasury and the House that there should be a special opportunity of discussing by resolution all the important services which are contained in the Vote, and that resolution will be taken very early after Easter, and I cannot help thinking that both from the point of view of that understanding and from the point of view, in which we all share, of getting an effective discussion, this is rather a worse time than the opportunity which will be given shortly after Easter for going into the whole subject. The hon. Member said he had broken new ground. It is pefectly true that he discussed nearly every item in the Vote, and I am afraid that if I were to follow him I should take even a longer time.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Give us a full explanation.

*MR. BRODRICK: Let me say one word in reply to the hon. Member for East Clare. He spoke of the difference between the pay of the Yeomanry and that of the ordinary common soldier. Of course there is a difference, but perhaps the hon. Member is not aware that the men we get in the Yeomanry are, as a rule, three or four years older than the ordinary recruit. We have got for the short period we require men who are in the very prime of life. That is the reason for the difference in the pay. Everybody knows for a short period of that kind we are obliged to pay a higher sum. I pay my tribute to the value of the colonial contingents during this war, and to the bravery which they have shown. In reply to what has been said I may say that there has been no falling off in the desire to serve the King. One hon. Member stated that Canada has refused to send a contingent, but I may point out to the hon. Member that within the last four months Canada has raised 1,000 men for the South African Constabulary, and all the other colonies have made equally generous responses. The number of colonials drawing the higher rate is about 30,000, and all those men cease to serve when the war is over. Then we shall be relieved of that extra pay which it has been well worth our while to offer them. On all points connected with this Vote I am prepared to give chapter and verse to the House, but I do think the opportunity afforded at two o'clock in the morning is extremely inconvenient, and not only this, but we shall not get any report in the papers. Therefore, I intend to defer my reply on some other points until the exceptional opportunity provided by the First Lord of the Treasury arrives, and then the main debate can be taken upon that occasion.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND asked if it was not a fact that the Colonial Governments in Australia had forbidden recruiting for the Constabulary. The right hon. Gentleman had not answered his question as to the total cost of the colonial contingents.

*Mr. BRODRICK: There are about 30,000 colonial troops receiving the higher rate of pay. In order to get at the cost of sending out these contingents we should have to get Returns from South Africa, and also from the colonies, and I think the hon. Gentleman will understand that with the immense amount of labour at the War Office in consequence of what is going on now in South Africa, we are unable at the present moment to supply this information. The hon. Member has now made his rejoinder, and I think that for the general purposes of debate we shall do well to adjourn the whole discussion until the promised opportunity after the holidays.

Mr. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick) said the Secretary for War had stated that there was an understanding in regard to the further opportunity to discuss this question after the holidays. As far as the Irish Members were concerned, they desired to discuss this question upon every available opportunity. He wanted some information regarding——

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place and claimed to move "That the Question be now put."

*Mr. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): I am afraid you will bring about such a scene as that which occurred the other night. It is disgraceful.

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided:—Ayes, 140; Noes, 66. (Division List No. 86.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bain, Col. James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bignold, Arthur
Bill, Charles
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cranborne, Viscount
Davies, Sir Horatio D (Chatham
Dickson, Charles Scott
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H,
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Goschen, Hn. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)

Greene, Sir E W (B'ry S Edm'nds
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (Midl'x
Hanbury, Rt. Hon Robert Wm.
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'd)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Henderson, Alexander
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hope, J F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt. Hn Walter (Bristol, S.
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Maxwell, W J H (Dumfriesshire
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow
Morgan, Hn Fred. (Monm'thsh.
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Peel, Hn. Wm Robert Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney
Roe, Sir Thomas
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, E.)
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tufnell, Lt.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Wason, Jn. Cathcart (Orkney
Welby, Lt.-Col. A C E (Taunton)
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (Notts
Whiteley, H. Ashton-u.-Lyne
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Ambrose, Robert
Asher, Alexander
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Black, Alexander William
Boyle, James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Cawley, Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Elibank, Master of
Farrell, James Patrick
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Gilhooly, James
Hammond, John
Hayden, John Patrick
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, William (Carnarvonshre
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Leamy, Edmund
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Rosc'mmon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rigg, Richard
Roche, John
Sullivan, Donal
Thomas, F. Freeman- (Hastings
Thomas, J A (Glamorg'n, Gower
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

Question put accordingly, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

The House divided:—Ayes, 157; Noes, 48. (Division List No. 87.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt Sir Alex F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Asher, Alexander
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Bain, Col. James Robert

Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W.(Leeds
Bathurst,Hon.AllenBenjamin
Beach,Rt.Hn.SirM.H.(Bristol
Bignold, Arthur
Bill, Charles
Black, Alexander William
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Caldwell, James
Cavendish,VCW.(Derbyshire)
Cawley, Frederick
Cecil, Evelyn (Ashton Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J.(Birm.)
Chamberlain,J.Austen(Worc.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colville, John
Cranborne, Viscount
Crombie, John William
Davies,SirHoratioD(Chatham
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickson, Charles Scott
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elibank, Master of
Fellowes, Hon. A. Edward
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy,Hon.EdwardAlgernon
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gore, Hn. F. S. Ormsby-
Goschen, Hn. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene,SirE.WBrySt Edm'nds
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,RtHnLordG(Mid'x.
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. Wm.
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Heath,ArthurHoward(Hanley
Henderson, Alexander
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hope,J.F.(Sheffield,Brightside
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W.(Salop)
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick W.
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Bristol,S.
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Lucas, Col.Francis (Lowestoft)
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Killop,James(Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriessh.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More,Robt.Jasper(Shropshire.
Morgan, David J.(Walthamst.
Morgan,HnFred.(Monm'thsh.
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F
Morton,Edw. J. C.(Devonport
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robt. Gray C.
Murray,RtHnAGraham(Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray,Col.Wyndham (Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Peel, Hn. Wm.Robt.Wellesley
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Priestley, Arthur
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley,Hn.M.W (Stalybridge)
Ridley,S.Forde(BethnalGreen
Rigg, Richard
Robertson,Herbert (Hackney)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alex.
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely,Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Shaw-Stewart,M.H.(Renfrew)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith,Abel H.(Hertford,East)
Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomas,F.Freeman-(Hastings
Thomas, J. A. (Glam., Gower)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, W. Edw. Murray
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Ure, Alexander
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkney
Welby,Lt.-Col.ACE.(Taunton
Welby, Sir C. G. E. (Notts.)
Whiteley,George(York,W.R.)
Whiteley,H.(Ashton underL.)
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson,A.Stanley(York,E.R.)
Wortley, Rt.Hon.C.B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young,Commander (Berks.,E.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham,William(Cork,N.E.)
Ambrose, Robert
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Boyle, James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Doogan, P. P.
Duffy, William J.
Farrell, James Patrick
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Gilhooly, James
Hammond, John
Hayden, John Patrick
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Leamy, Edmund
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Killopp, W. (Sligo, North)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipp'raryMid
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly,Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly,James(R'ssc'mm'n,N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, JohnE.(Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roche, John
Sullivan, Donal

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

Adjourned at a Quarter after Two of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 22nd March, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

WORCESTER TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.].

Presented, read 1*a*, and referred to the Examiners.

ARLESEY GAS BILL [H.L.].

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE AND GATESHEAD GAS BILL [H.L.].

FOLKESTONE CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

Reported with Amendments.

CHARING CROSS, HAMMERSMITH' AND DISTRICT ELECTRIC RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

KING'S ROAD RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

Committed: the Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

NORTH-EAST LONDON RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

A petition of Messrs. Batten, Proffitt, and Scott, of 32, Great George Street, Westminster, Parliamentary Agents, praying for leave to present a petition of Messrs. Baring Brothers and Company, Limited, praying to be heard by counsel against the Bill, although the time limited by Standing Order No. 92 for presenting such petition has expired; read, and ordered to lie on the Table; and Standing Order No. 92 to be considered on Monday next in order to its being dispensed with.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PATENTS ACTS.

Appendices to Report of the Committee appointed by the Board of Trade (including Minutes of evidence).

CHARITY COMMISSION (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Fifty-eighth Report of the Charity Commissioners.

Presented (by command) and ordered to lie on the Table.

TEACHERS SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1898 (ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS DEFERRED ANNUITY FUNDS, ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND).

Accounts of the Elementary School Teachers' Deferred Annuity Funds, England and Scotland, for the year ended 31st March, 1900, together with the Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon; laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL [H.L.].

A Bill to check corruption was presented by the Lord Alverstone; read 1*a*; to be printed; and to be read 2*a* on Thursday next. (No. 25.)

NATIVE PUBLICATIONS IN INDIA—CHARGE AGAINST MR. MALABARI.

*Lord STANLEY of ALDERLEY: My Lords, I wish to ask the Under Secretary of State for India if the Indian Government will relieve the Director of Public Instruction of Bombay from the task of reporting on native publications to the Government of India, and if the India Office will make some amends to Mr. Malabari for the charge of sedition so unjustifiably cast upon Mr. Malabari in the Director's Official Report of 24th July, 1900. What happened was this: In a letter dated 31st March, 1899, the Government of India desired the Director of Public Instruction in Bombay to report on native publications in the Presidency. This was a task and a duty which had been too long neglected by the Indian Government. For many years, commencing before 1848, this duty in respect of Hindustani literature was well performed annually by M. Garcia de Tassy, Professor of Hindustani in the School for Oriental Languages held in the National Library of Paris. After his death this annual Report ceased. There is every reason to believe that the Government of Lord Curzon intended to supply this deficiency, and did not intend that the Director of Public Instruction should hunt for sedition. In any case the director—I hope the Government will mention his name, because he ought to get the credit or the discredit for what he has done—

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.

Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Bignold, Arthur
Bill, Charles
Black, Alexander William
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Caldwell, James
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
Cawley, Frederick
Cecil, Evelyn (Ashton Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colville, John
Cranborne, Viscount
Crombie, John William
Davies, Sir Horatio D (Chatham
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickson, Charles Scott
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elibank, Master of
Fellowes, Hon. A. Edward
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gore, Hn. F. S. Ormsby-
Goschen, Hn. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Sir E. W. Bry St Edm'nds
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (Mid'x.
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. Wm.
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Henderson, Alexander
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop)
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick W.
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire.
Morgan, David J. (Walthamst.
Morgan, Hn Fred. (Monm'thsh.
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robt. Gray C.
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robt. Wellesley
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Priestley, Arthur
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley, Hn. M. W (Stalybridge)
Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green
Rigg, Richard
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alex.
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings
Thomas, J. A. (Glam., Gower)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, W. Edw. Murray
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Ure, Alexander
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Welby, Lt.-Col. A C E. (Taunton
Welby, Sir C. G. E. (Notts.)
Whiteley, George (York, W. R.)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton under L.)
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks., E.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)
Ambrose, Robert
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Boyle, James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Doogan, P. P.
Duffy, William J.
Farrell, James Patrick
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Gilhooly, James
Hammond, John
Hayden, John Patrick
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Leamy, Edmund
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipp'rary Mid
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (R'ssc'mm'n, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roche, John
Sullivan, Donal

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

Adjourned at a Quarter after Two of the clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 22nd March, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

WORCESTER TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.].

Presented, read 1*a*, and referred to the Examiners.

ARLESEY GAS BILL [H.L.].

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE AND GATESHEAD GAS BILL [H.L.].

FOLKESTONE CORPORATION BILL [H.L.].

Reported with Amendments.

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KING'S ROAD RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

Committed: the Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

NORTH-EAST LONDON RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

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RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PATENTS ACTS.

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selected out of all India the one man least amenable to any accusation of disloyalty or disaffection.

Mr. Malabari has long been the editor of the *Indian Spectator*. I have read that paper certainly for more than seventeen years, for it was recommended to me by Sir Louis Mallet, Under Secretary in the India Office, who left that office from failing health in 1883. He always read that paper, and I believe his successor had an equally high opinion of it. I was speaking to a member of the Secretary of State's Council the other day, and I stated that Mr. Malabari was the most pro-British editor in India. He replied that if not the most, he was certainly as pro-British as any of the other editors. What did the Director do? Did he seek to form an opinion from the editorial or other articles in the *Indian Spectator* written in English, upon which we could all form an opinion? No, he raked up a Gujarati poem written by Mr. Malabari twenty-five years ago, when he was not yet twenty years of age; he casts doubt upon whether Mr. Malabari wrote it himself on the ground, says the Report, that "it is difficult to believe that a Parsee could write such pure Gujarati"; he then mistranslates the poem and accuses it of "inciting the people of Gujarat to cast off a yoke which presses on them heavily." I may observe that the Bombay Government has refused to produce the translation upon which the Director of Public Instruction founded his criticism. This incident happened during an interregnum between the departure from Bombay of the late Governor (Lord Sandhurst) and the arrival of his successor, so that, properly speaking, neither one nor the other can be said to be answerable for what was done by the Bombay officials.

The *Times of India* on 19th November, 1900, published a translation of the poem by Mr. Kabraji, editor of the *Rast Goftar*, a justice of the peace, Fellow of the Bombay University, and a Gujarati author and critic of distinction. Needless to say, this translation does not bear out any of the imaginations of the sedition-hunting Director of Public Instruction. When the Director endeavours to find fault with particular words he becomes ridiculous. He translates "pagar" as "official salaries"; the word —a Portugese word—means "any payment," as Mr. Malabari says of it in Gujarati, and it is the same in its original language. The next blunder of the Director worth noticing is when he forces the word "rajamala" to mean "Sovereign" or "Government," whilst it means "office work." What Mr. Malabari says he meant was:—The work of administration is not suited to you; or, you are not capable of administrative work, because of the indolence of the Gujaratis; not that the Sovereign or the Indian Government was not fit for the Gujaratis. "Raj" is an Indian word meaning "Rule" or "State"; and the Director evidently does not know what "amala" means or to what language it belongs. It is Arabic, and means, literally, "workmen,"—those who do anything; and in India it is used for the low-paid officials of law courts and Government offices. In order to translate this word as "Sovereign" or "the Government," the Director must have taken the Sanskrit meaning of "amala," which is "spotless," sometimes applied to a woman. But it requires all the conceit of an Indian civil servant to suppose that any outsider would apply the epithet "spotless" to the Indian Government, which, since the time of Warren Hastings, has acquired more spots than the leopard.

Cardinal Richelieu is reported to have said that he could hang any man upon a few lines of his writing. The Government of Bombay could do it with greater ease; it can select any meaning from the various dialects of India. An ex-Bengal civilian wrote to me that "rajamala" means a Royal garland or necklace, and that "pagar" means a mound or a field raised above flood level. So you see how easy it is for a man with an imperfect knowledge of the languages like this Director to go hunting for sedition. The whole of the criticism of the Director is preposterous, and ought to have been withdrawn and apologised for. Mr. Malabari's paper was mentioned as one of the most loyal papers in India by Sir Alexander Mackenzie, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, during the discussion of the Sedition Acts in the Viceroy's Council in 1897 or 1898. Mr. Malabari's writings were not only the reverse of sedition, but were most moderate in tone

He wrote a great deal against the infant marriage of the Hindus, but without irritating them, though perhaps he rather bored them. To tax such a writer with sedition is enough to goad him or his friends in that direction. Surely the Government will make some *amende* to Mr. Malabari, and express some regret for the trouble he has been put to. The proper attitude of an Englishman, or of an English Government, with regard to seditious writing ought to be that shown in the story of the Frenchman who asked his English friend how much longer he expected to be able to write as he was doing, without getting shut up in prison; the reply was that he had been trying to find that out for a long time, but that he had not yet reached the limit.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (The Earl of HARDWICKE): My Lords, I am sorry I cannot follow the noble Lord through his interesting disquisition on the past history of the Hindoo languages, but will address myself to the question on the Paper. In the first place I should like to explain, very shortly, the circumstances that led to the occurrence to which this question refers. In 1899, shortly after the arrival of Lord Curzon in India, the Government of India were anxious that the annual reviews on the native publications in the different provinces should be conducted in a more interesting manner, and they desired that the Director of Public Instruction should supersede the Government Librarian, who had previously carried out this work, and that he should write these reviews in a style that was both literary and informing. They met with some opposition from the various provinces to this proposal; but it was eventually agreed, at any rate so far as Bombay was concerned—and as the question refers only to Bombay I need not allude to other provinces—that the Government Librarian should draw the notice of the Director of Public Instruction to any publications that he thought worthy of being noticed in the annual review. It was also decided that as the Director of Public Instruction could not possibly be expected to be familiar with all the different Indian vernaculars, it would be advisable for him to pass these publications on to experts, and if possible to native members of his own Department, who, having studied the books, were to make a short statement to the Director of Public Instruction, and with this material in his hands he was then to endeavour to carry out the wishes of the Indian Government in writing reviews of an interesting and informing character.

In 1900—in the month of July, I think—the annual review appeared, having been prepared in the manner I have sketched out; and in this review there was a criticism of a poem by Mr. Malabari, written in the Gujarati vernacular. Mr. Malabari took exception to the character of this review, which stated that certain passages in the poem were of a disloyal character, and wrote a complaint to the Bombay Government. The noble Lord asked me the name of the Director of Public Instruction. His name is Mr. Giles. Having given the matter every consideration, the Bombay Government came to this conclusion, and issued it as an answer to Mr. Malabari—

> "His Excellency the Governor in Council is of opinion that Mr. Giles acted with propriety in calling attention to the poem in question, and is also of opinion that the Director of Public Instruction has, in his letter of 29th September, justified the criticism to which Mr. Malabari takes exception. Beyond expressing their readiness to accept Mr. Malabari's assurance that he did not intend the writings to convey any unconstitutional suggestion, they do not think it necessary to make any further remarks on the correspondence."

This matter is a purely local one. No communications have passed between the India Office and the Government of Bombay on the subject, so that when the noble Lord asked me whether the Indian Government will relieve the Director of Public Instruction of Bombay from the task of reporting on native publications to the Government of India, my answer must be that the Secretary of State has no information as to the intentions of the Government of India in regard to this matter; and, with regard to the second part of this question—"whether the India Office will make some amends to Mr. Malabari for the charge of sedition so unjustifiably cast upon him in the Director's official report of 24th July, 1900,"—my answer must be that no one knows better than Mr. Malabari that if he has any cause for complaint he must address the Secretary of State on the matter. The Secretary of State has heard nothing from Mr. Malabari of any sort or kind, and in these circumstances there is no ground for the suggestion that my noble friend the Secretary of State should make any amends at all.

LORD REAY: My Lords, I shall not enter upon the philological merits of the case; I rise simply to give my opinion of Mr. Malabari. When I was connected with Bombay there was no one in that presidency more loyal than Mr. Malabari. I frequently read the *Indian Spectator*, and I can say that nothing ever appeared in that paper which could, in the remotest degree, be construed as disloyal. Mr. Malabari criticised the Indian Administration in a friendly spirit and with great intelligence. He also freely criticised his countrymen. Mr. Malabari was an ardent and prominent advocate of social reform, and as such he naturally made many enemies. I have seen a translation of the incriminating verses, as published in the *Times of India* in the month of November last year, and I must say that I cannot find anything in the poem which can be considered as seditious. In it Mr. Malabari urges his countrymen to be more self-reliant, and not to neglect arts and industries. I suppose that no exception can be taken to anyone who urges the natives of India to apply themselves more to industries than they are doing; the Government of India have on many occasions shown the importance they attach to the development of industries. Mr. Malabari belongs to a category of persons who criticise the Government, but who do so with the object of strengthening our rule in India, and of making it more popular. I cannot see that in doing so we should not accept any criticisms which he makes in a friendly spirit. There are very few men in India who exercise their judgment in that independent and moderate manner, and I think it is the duty of the Government to encourage them, because, unless you encourage them, you give an indirect encouragement to those who are actuated by entirely different motives. I trust, therefore, the Government will see their way to place some other construction on this poem than that which—no doubt in perfect good faith—has been placed upon it by those who have dealt with the matter.

LORD SANDHURST: My Lords, as my noble friend has referred to the loyalty of Mr. Malabari, I should like to say that during the five years I was Governor of Bombay Mr. Giles served under me as Senior Inspector, and also as Director of Public Instruction during the last two years of my term of office. He belongs to the Uncovenanted Service, and I am sure the Government has no more loyal subject than Mr. Giles, whose knowledge of Gujarati is extensive, and whose sympathy with the Gujarati natives is extreme.

*THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: My Lords, I should like to add my testimony to that which has been given by the noble Lord who has been Governor of Bombay (Lord Reay) as to the loyalty of Mr. Malabari. I have known him for many years, and have constantly read the *Indian Spectator*, of which he is editor. I have seen in that paper not the slightest trace of disloyalty to the Government. It is a paper that has been well conducted, criticising occasionally in a fair manner the acts of the Government, but in no sense disloyal. In point of fact, it is perfectly incredible to suppose that any Parsee can be disloyal to the Government of India. I should like to make one remark, and one remark only, upon this matter with respect to the merits of the case. I must say that in my opinion it is a very strong measure indeed for any Government officer to dig out a poem written twenty-five years ago by a man in Mr. Malabari's position.

*THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: Is the noble Lord certain of that? I have no information that the poem was written twenty-five years ago.

*THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: Mr. Malabari says that the particular poem to which exception was taken by Mr. Giles was written twenty-five years ago. I think it is rather too bad to dig out a poem after all those years. If a very young man had written a foolish poem, I do not think after twenty-five years it should be dug out and attacked. I believe that the highest authorities in Gujarati are of opinion that the poem does not bear the interpretation which the Government official has placed upon it. However that may be—I am absolutely unable to form an opinion myself, not being a Gujarati scholar—I am satisfied of this, that nothing could be more foreign to the feelings of Mr. Malabari than that he should be concerned in writing anything of a disloyal character towards the British Government.

*THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: My Lords, I hope that in my reply to the noble Lord I said nothing which may induce your Lordships to think that I or the Secretary of State have any opinion either one way or the other in this matter, because no form of communication has been made to the India Office. I have certainly seen the translation of the poem, and I have my own opinion. I have certainly seen the comments that have been made in the review, but inasmuch as the Government of Bombay have made a statement to Mr. Malabari, which I have read, and Mr. Malabari has not thought it necessary to communicate with the Secretary of State on the matter, I can only repeat that I see no reason why my noble friend the Secretary of State should interfere in the matter.

LONDON UNDERGROUND RAILWAYS.

Moved, "That a Committee of five Lords be appointed to join with a Committee of the House of Commons to consider and report upon the subject of London Underground Railways."—(*The Chairman of Committees.*)

Agreed to.

The Lords following were named of the Committee:—E. Lauderdale, E. Rosse, V. Knutsford, L. Windsor, and L. Herries.

Ordered, That such Committee have power to agree with the Committee of the House of Commons in the appointment of a chairman.

Then a Message was ordered to be sent to the House of Commons to acquaint them therewith, and to request them to appoint five Members of that House to be joined with the said Committee pursuant to the Resolution of this House of the 4th instant, and to the Message of the House of Commons of the 7th instant, signifying their concurrence in the said Resolution.

DELIVERY OF PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: My Lords, on the motion for adjournment I wish to allude for a moment to a subject which I think touches your Lordships' convenience very greatly, if, indeed, it does not affect your privileges. I refer to the old subject of the delivery of Papers. We have had, in the course of the last seven days, two notable instances of the laggard delivery of Papers to Members. Last Friday an important debate was raised in this House by the noble Viscount who was formerly Commander-in-Chief, and some very important Papers were published — namely, Lord Wolseley's Memorandum, with remarks upon it by the noble Marquess the late Secretary of State for War, and by Mr. Brodrick, the present Minister for War. Those Papers were certainly important Papers for the consideration of those who intended to take part in the debate. They were delivered to the Members of the House of Commons on the Friday morning, and appeared in some of the morning newspapers on that day. It is true we found them on the Table of the House when we came down on Friday afternoon, but they were not delivered to Members of your Lordships' House in their homes till Saturday morning, after the debate, for which they were all important, had taken place. Exactly the same thing has occurred this morning, except that there was no debate arising in your Lordships' House. Very important Papers were delivered to Members of the House of Commons this morning — the Papers referring to the recent peace negotiations between Lord Kitchener and General Botha. I had a curious instance to-day of how these differences in delivery between the House of Commons and your Lordships' House act. I was at the house of my noble friend Lord Kimberley — whose improved condition we all so greatly rejoice in—and I found that his son, Mr. Wodehouse, who has the privilege of a seat in the other House, was in possession of these Papers, whereas they were not to be found in the Papers delivered to my noble friend Lord Kimberley. It does not seem to me right, even if there may be difficulties in delivering Papers as promptly to Members of your Lordships' House as to Members of the other House—although I must say I do not see why that difficulty should arise—that in the case of Papers of special importance we should not have them as early as Members of the House of Commons, and certainly as early as they are given to the Press. I do not know whose business this is. It is a matter which I have heard raised constantly during the time I have had the honour of a seat in your Lordships' House, but I think it is a matter which is worthy of consideration, and it is one that we ought to ask both the Government and the authorities of the House to do their best to correct.

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Duke of DEVONSHIRE): My Lords, I am afraid I cannot give the noble Lord any information on this matter. He is quite right in saying that it is a subject upon which observation has been made before. I am told that the distribution of Papers rests entirely with the printers, and not with any officer of this House, but I will make inquiry, and see whether any improvement can be adopted.

House adjourned at Five of the clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 22nd March, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 1).

Bill to confirm two Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to St. Marylebone, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Gerald Balfour and Mr. Attorney General for Ireland.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 1) BILL.

"To confirm two Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to St. Marylebone," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 112.]

HECKMONDWIKE GAS (TRANSFER) BILL.

Reported [Preamble not proved]; Report to lie upon the Table.

PETITIONS.

BEER BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Stalham; Hadleigh; Linton; Billesdon; Gloucestershire; Sudbury; and Sawston; to lie upon the Table.

COAL MINES (EMPLOYMENT) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Shieldhill; Hill of Beath; Oakley; Blairadam; Blairhall; Wemyss; Townhill; Willsgreen; Fordell; Buckhaven; East Wemyss; Methil; and Raith; to lie upon the Table.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Littleborough; and Heworth; to lie upon the Table.

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Shieldhill; Oakley; Methil; Blairadam; Hill of Beath; Condenbeath; East Wemyss; Blairhall; Fordell; Buckhaven; Wellsgreen; Townhill; and Wemyss; to lie upon the Table.

OFFICERS OF THE INDIAN STAFF CORPS.

Petition of Lieutenant E. G. Sexton and Captain J. M. Tighe, for redress of grievances; to lie upon the Table.

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1896.

Petition from Guildford, for alteration of Law ; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Redditch ; Walworth ; Stratford ; South Woodford (three) ; Burnage ; Edinburgh (three) ; Reading ; Ince-in-Makerfield ; Codicote ; Ayr ; Newcastle-on-Tyne (four) ; Kippax ; Barnstaple ; Four Elms ; Glasgow (two) Govan ; Cambridge ; Peckham ; Guildford ; Leytonstone (six) ; Walthamstow (two) ; Leyton ; Woodford ; Bristol ; Middlesbrough (three) ; Bedminster ; Viewforth ; Sedbergh ; Littleborough ; Ledbury (two) ; Newbury (three) ; Clitheroe ; Sheffield (ten) ; Birmingham (five) ; Brixton (two) ; Kennington (two) ; Pemberton ; Plymouth ; Elland ; Ripon ; Carlisle (four) ; Allonby ; Brynn (two) ; Longtown ; Waverton ; Holbeck; Wortley ; Armley (three) ; Bramley ; New Wortley ; Leeds (twelve) ; Bradford (Yorks.) ; Bispham) ; Leith ; Ashton-in-Makerfield ; Sutton-upon-Hull ; Egremont ; Hyde (two) ; North Ormesby (two) ; Withington ; Hereford ; Paignton ; Longsight ; Burnham ; Weston-super-Mare ; Milton ; Beverley ; Kendal ; Nailsea ; Wadebridge ; Port Isaac (three) Fulham (two) ; Aberdeen City ; St. Andrews ; Jarrow (fourteen) ; Durham ; Norwood ; South Norwood ; Stalybridge ; Marylebone ; Manchester (three) Square ; Truro ; West Hampstead ; Ealing ; Alford (two) ; Deeside ; Poynton ; Openshaw ; Hull (five) ; Dunfermline ; Burnham ; Windsor ; Spilsby ; Horncastle (two) ; Barradon ; Widdrington ; Seghill ; Lanivet ; Penzance ; Newlyn ; Liverpool ; Shanklin ; Derby ; Warrington ; Hanworth ; and Highbridge ; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Methlick ; Girvan ; Govan ; Snizort ; Edinburgh (two) ; Bothwell ; Riccarton ; Dunnichen (two) ; Leith ; Carnoustie ; Lundie ; Milngavie ; Troon ; Dunfermline ; Stirling ; Halbeath ; Kelton ; Brechin ; Montrose (two) ; Leslie ; and Arbroath ; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PATENT ACTS.

Copy presented, of Appendices to the Report of the Committee appointed by the Board of Trade to inquire into the working of the Patent Acts on certified specified suggestions [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

WINES IMPORTED.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 14th March ; *Mr. T. R. Dewar*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 93.]

COLONIAL LOANS ACT, 1899.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 11th March ; *Mr. Austen Chamberlain*] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 94.]

EDUCATION (ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS).

Copy presented, of Accounts of the Elementary School Teachers' Deferred Annuity Funds, England and Scotland, for the year ended 31st March, 1900, together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 95.]

TRAWL VESSELS (PROSECUTIONS).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 26th February ; *Mr. Cathcart Wason*] ; to lie upon the Table.

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN.

Copy presented, of Abstract of Accounts of the University of Aberdeen for the year ending 15th September, 1900 [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 96].

EMIGRATION STATISTICS (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Emigration Statistics of Ireland for the year 1900 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

SUNDAY CLOSING (WALES) ACT (1881) AMENDMENT BILL.

Second Reading deferred from Monday next till Wednesday, 1st May.

CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS (COCKERMOUTH).

Ordered, That the copy of the Judges' Report in the Cockermouth Election Trial be printed.—(*Mr. Attorney General.*) [No. 97.]

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—TRAIN WRECKING AT TAAIBOSCH.

MR. HAVILAND BURKE (King's County, Tullamore): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the three men who were shot on the 19th instant by sentence of a Military Court, confirmed by Lord Kitchener, for alleged treason and murder in connection with the wrecking of a train near Taaibosch, and the two men who were sentenced by the same Court to five years penal servitude for the same alleged offence, were all or any of them prisoners of war or local farmers. The hon. Member complained that certain portions of the question had been omitted by the Clerk at the Table.

*MR. SPEAKER: Two extracts from a newspaper were omitted. There was no opportunity, I am told, of communicating with the hon. Member.

MR. HAVILAND BURKE: I was in the House continuously after handing in the question.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): I have received the following telegram from Lord Kitchener—

> "Pretoria, 20th March, 1901, 11.30 a.m.
>
> "In two cases tried by Court-Martial, Field General Court-Martial, recently, I have confirmed death sentence; both Courts were submitted to Sir A. Milner, who considered confirmation necessary. First case: Three Cape Colony rebels assisted in wrecking train in Cape Colony, causing death of five men, and subsequently murdered a native boy. Second case: A burgher, De Jaegers, near Harrismith, killed three natives; the last in most cold-blooded manner. No military extenuating circumstances possible. Sentences have been carried out."

I have no information as to the two men who were sentenced to penal servitude. His Majesty's Government, while regretting the necessity, entirely approve Lord Kitchener's action in this matter.

HOSPITALS—PROPOSED COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS.

DR. THOMPSON (Monaghan, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War, with reference to the recommendation of the Royal Commission on South African Hospitals that a committee of experts should be appointed at some early and convenient time to inquire into and report upon the steps needed to effect the objects indicated in Part IV. of the Royal Commission's Report, whether he will state when he intends to appoint this committee of experts and its composition.

MR. BRODRICK: I am not in a position to make a statement, but no time is being lost in the consideration of this matter.

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH BOER LEADERS.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Boer Leaders have intimated recently to His Majesty's Government terms on which they are prepared to end the war; and, if so, what are these terms.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): No, Sir, except so far as they are to be implied from General Botha's conversation with Lord Kitchener.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies a question of which I have given him private notice, namely, whether he can give any information to the House in regard to what does not appear from the Papers published—namely, the part, or parts, of the terms offered by the British Government which caused their rejection by the Boer negotiators.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: No, Sir. I have no information whatever beyond what is given in the Papers.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): Will he try to get this information from the authorities at the Cape?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: No, Sir. There is no information.

PLAGUE AT CAPE TOWN.

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL (Armagh, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he can give any information as to the spread of the plague at Cape Town; and what steps are being taken to check its further progress.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have no further report beyond the bulletin published in yesterday's newspapers. The Cape Government are, I believe, doing everything in their power, under the advice of Professor Simpson, one of the best experts, and are, I know, having six medical men sent out specially for plague duty.

LAND SETTLEMENT COMMISSION.

MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has now received the Report of the Commission to inquire into Land Settlement in the Transvaal, and will have it distributed at once.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have now received the Report, and am forwarding it to Sir A. Milner for his observations. On receipt I will consider whether it will be desirable to publish.

MR. JOHN ELLIS: Can we not have this Report before the Report of Supply on the Vote for the expenses of this Commission?

MR. CHAMBERLAIN: No, Sir. I cannot promise it before that.

MARK IV. BULLETS.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office can he say when the fifty million Mark IV. bullets which were broken up were manufactured, and what was the cost.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg also to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state in what respect the forty-five and a half millions of Mark-IV. bullets were defective, were they made to specification, who were the contractors, and how much was expended in their manufacture.

*THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): I am afraid that the hon. Members are under some misapprehension. It was found that the nickel envelopes of the Mark IV. bullets occasionally stuck in the barrels, and that then the lead core was squirted through the envelope—a process known as stripping. It was accordingly decided to discontinue the construction of the Mark IV. cartridges, and four and a half millions of unused bullets were broken up. The cartridges in stock are being gradually used up in practice. The Mark IV. bullets were made to specification by ordnance factories and by various contractors. The exact cost cannot be ascertained.

MR. WEIR: Will the noble Lord answer the latter part of my question, and give the names of the contractors, as well as state how much money was expended in the manufacture of these fifty millions of bullets?

*LORD STANLEY: They were made by various contractors, and the exact cost cannot be ascertained. I am afraid I can add nothing to my answer.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Were they made in Germany?

*LORD STANLEY: No, Sir.

AN HON. MEMBER: In Birmingham?

MR. WEIR: How many of the bullets were made by the Ordnance Department?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The noble Lord has said he can add nothing to his answer.

GORDON HIGHLANDERS—MILITIA BATTALION.

DR. FARQUHARSON (Aberdeenshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the fact that a number of militiamen now serving in the 3rd Battalion of the Gordon Highlanders is only 170 and that a full staff of regimental officers, many of whom are serving at great personal inconvenience, has to be maintained on full pay, he will consider the advisability of disembodying the battalion.

MR. BRODRICK: The hon. Member has understated the figures. The Returns of the 1st March show 373 men embodied, of whom 241 were at headquarters and the rest chiefly on furlough. The details, including the recruits, of the 1st Battalion, which is now in South Africa, are incorporated with the 3rd Battalion, thereby bringing up the strength of the combined unit to an effective fighting battalion. The full staff of regimental officers is therefore absolutely necessary.

YEOMANRY—MARCHING ALLOWANCES.

MR. SEELY (Lincoln): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether a member of a Yeomanry regiment residing beyond the borders of the county in which the headquarters of the regiment are situated who attended a camp of exercise last year is entitled under the special order of last year to marching allowance from his place of residence only or only from the borders of the county.

LORD STANLEY: They are entitled to marching allowance from the border of the county or recruiting area of the regiment only.

MILITIA ALLOWANCES.

CAPTAIN JESSEL (St. Pancras, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will consider the desirability of entitling the next-of-kin or widow of a militiaman dying during the embodiment of his unit to receive the full amount of furlough pay, allowances, and gratuity which the militiaman himself would have received if he had been invalided.

LORD STANLEY: The point raised has already been very carefully considered. The furlough gratuity is intended for the man himself to help him to civil employment. The widow of the militiaman should only get the same gratuity as the widow of the regular soldier or reservist.

ARREARS OF SOLDIERS' PAY.

SIR JOSEPH LEIGH (Stockport): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether a soldier or volunteer serving with the colours in South Africa whose pay from any cause is several months in arrear will be allowed interest on the arrears, and, if so, what rate of interest.

LORD STANLEY: No, Sir. Every effort is made both locally and at home to obtain an early settlement, and advances are made where there is any evidence of money being really due.

TURBINE MACHINERY TESTS.

SIR THOMAS WRIGHTSON (St. Pancras, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can state what course of trials the Admiralty propose to make to test the merits of the Turbine machinery of the "Viper" and the "Cobra," and when such trials and tests are likely to be made.

*THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): Both the vessels named have completed their contract trials at high and low speeds. The "Cobra" has not yet been delivered by the builders. The "Viper" will shortly be commissioned for service and tried in comparison with other destroyers. No definite programme of trials has yet been arranged.

TRAINING SHIP CRUISES.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether arrangements will be made for a training ship to visit Stornoway and Lochbroom this summer.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The second part of the summer cruise will include Stornoway and Ullapool; the latter is the nearest part of the Loch to which the "Northampton" can go. There is not water enough for her to get to Lochbroom.

INDIAN CURRENCY ACT—GOLD RESERVE.

SIR EDWARD SASSOON (Hythe): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he would state the total amount of gold reserve accumulated in India and in England under the provisions of the Indian Currency Act; and whether the reserve held here is included in the weekly statements of the Bank of England.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): The gold in the Currency Reserve under the provisions of the Indian Currency Act was on the 7th of this month £6,957,000 in India and none in England. There is also £800,000 in the Gold Reserve Fund in India, which is not held under that Act. When gold is held in England under the Currency Act it is excluded from the weekly statements of the Bank of England.

CHINA—RUSSIA AND MANCHURIA.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the clause of the Anglo-German Agreement which declares for the maintenance of the integrity of the Chinese Empire, His Majesty's Government propose to ask the German Government to take any action in reference to Russia's action in Manchuria.

THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Viscount CRANBORNE, Rochester): The Russian Government have repeatedly declared their intention to respect the integrity of China, and His Majesty's Government are not aware that they have infringed it.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: What about Manchuria?

MR. JAMES O'KELLY (Roscommon, N.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can inform the House if the Anglo-German Agreement includes Manchuria within its scope.

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: I have nothing to add to the statement which I made on this subject in answer to the hon. Gentleman on Tuesday last.†

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: May I ask if the Government would regard as a breach of the Anglo-German Agreement the continued occupation of Manchuria by——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That does not arise out of the question.

PATENT ACTS—COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can state what steps will be taken to give effect to the recommendations of the Departmental Committee on the working of the Patent Acts.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): I have only just received the Report, and cannot make any statement on the subject at present.

MR. STUART-WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can state when the Report and evidence of the Committee on the working of the Patent Acts will be printed and circulated.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The Report was circulated yesterday. The evidence will be presented in the course of a few days.

BRUSSELS CONFERENCE ON PATENTS, ETC.

MR. STUART-WORTLEY: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether it is intended to present to Parliament Papers relating to the Conference of the International Union for the Protection of Industrial Property (Patents and Trade Marks), held at Brussels in December, 1900.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: Yes, Sir.

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY GOODS RATES.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the rates charged by the Great Eastern Railway Company between Harwich and London are as follows, less sea freight: Cabbages, foreign 5s. 10d., English 7s. 6d.; carrots, foreign 4s. 2d., English 7s. 6d.; potatoes, foreign 4s. 2d., English 7s. 6d.; onions, foreign 2s. 6d., English 7s. 6d.; apples, foreign nil, English 12s. 1d.; and whether he can bring pressure to bear on this company to equalise these preferential and differential charges.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I have communicated with the Great Eastern

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† See page 405.

Company, and they inform me that they have carefully looked into the matter, and cannot find that they have any such rates in operation. The appropriate remedy laid down by law in cases of preferential rates for foreign produce will be found on reference to Section 27 (2) of the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888.

MAJOR RASCH: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that I have taken these figures from the Great Eastern Railway Company's own list?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I am not aware of that fact, and if there is any cause of complaint it should be made either to the Board of Trade or to the Railway and Canal Commission.

MALLAIG RAILWAY.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will state the cause of the delay in opening the new railway to Mallaig; is there a penalty clause for failure to complete the railway within the specified time; and, if so, will he say why no penalty has been imposed; has the railway yet been inspected by the Government inspectors; and can he say when it will be opened.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The time limited by the Special Acts for the completion of the line referred to does not expire until 31st July, 1902. The line has within the past few days been inspected by an officer of the Board of Trade, and I am informed that, subject to the Board's sanction, the company propose to open the line on the 1st April next.

HORTICULTURAL EXPERIMENTS.

SIR JAMES RANKIN (Herefordshire, Leominster): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he will consider the desirability of establishing promological stations in convenient parts of the country for the purpose of making experiments in the growth of the apple and pear, so as to enable persons employed in the fruit industry to obtain reliable information.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): Stations for agricultural and horticultural experiments have not hitherto been established directly by the State itself, and in the case of apples and pears, which depend so much upon the climate in which they are grown, no one central station would be of much use, and it is only by local agency that experiment stations could be established in so many varying districts. Both in the North and South of England there are institutions aided either by the local taxation grants or by direct grants from the Board of Agriculture, in which experiments are made in the growth of pears and apples, and this appears to be the proper system to be adopted in those districts such as Herefordshire, where there is a special interest in the growth of these fruits.

SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

SIR JAMES RANKIN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, having in view the trivial nature of some of the charges under the head of indictable offences brought before Courts of petty sessions, but which cannot be tried by such Courts without the consent of the defendant, he will consider the desirability of so amending the law that some limited power be placed in the discretion of the Court of petty sessions as to the cases which should be dealt with summarily by the Court without the consent of the defendant.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. JESSE COLLINGS, Birmingham, Bordesley): The Secretary of State does not see his way to introduce any such legislation, which would necessarily be of a controversial nature, and would involve questions of considerable difficulty.

TUBERCULOSIS.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether the regulations issued by the Local Government Board for the guidance of sanitary officers in seizing meat from animals which have suffered from localised tuberculosis are intended as a model for adoption in byelaws by sanitary authorities; and, if so, whether he will grant a Return of the sanitary authorities which have adopted them as bye-laws.

I beg also to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been drawn to the portion of the Report of the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis, in which they state that they entertain no doubt that in certain places a great deal of meat is seized which is perfectly safe and wholesome food; whether any compensation was paid to the owners for such unlawful seizures; and what steps have been taken by the Local Government Board to prevent the continuance of such seizures of perfectly sound and wholesome food by officers of sanitary authorities; whether he is also aware that the Royal Commission adopted a number of recommendations for the prevention of such unlawful seizures in the case of meat from animals which had suffered from tuberculosis of a localised character; and whether the Local Government Board have issued regulations for the guidance of medical officers and inspectors of sanitary authorities.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): I am aware of the statements and recommendations of the Royal Commission alluded to by the hon. Member, but I have no information as regards the payment of compensation. The Local Government Board have not prescribed regulations on the subject referred to. The Royal Commission laid down certain principles which, in their opinion, should be observed in the inspection of tuberculous carcases of cattle; and the Board in March, 1899, drew the attention of sanitary authorities to this matter, and stated that the authorities should direct those of their officers who were employed as meat inspectors to act in accordance with the principles laid down by the Commission.

TEACHERS' DISABLEMENT ALLOWANCES.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether he can state how many teachers in Great Britain have received a disablement allowance during the year 1900 under the Elementary School Teachers (Superannuation) Act, 1898; and what has been the total amount paid by the Treasury for this purpose during the same period.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir J. GORST, Cambridge University): The answer for England and Wales is: 291 teachers, £4,568 12s. 2d.

IRISH DRIFT SURVEY.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether he can say when the Drift Survey, begun many years ago in England, will be finished, and when the survey of Ireland will be commenced.

SIR J. GORST: It is impossible to say when the Drift Survey in England will be finished; about one-third is done. The Drift Survey of Ireland was completed some years ago, but it needs revision in certain particulars, and is, as I stated yesterday, now under the consideration of the Board of Education.

LEGITIMIST JACOBITE LEAGUE.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works if he can explain why the wreaths sent as usual, according to instructions, to the Office of Works, by the Legitimist Jacobite League of Great Britain and Ireland, for the decoration of the statue of King Charles I. in Trafalgar Square, on the 30th January last, were not placed upon the statue; and why the decoration of the King's statue, after having been allowed for eight years, was this year prohibited.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS: (Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): I would remind the hon. Member that on the 30th January last our late revered Sovereign was lying dead, and the special circumstances of this case seemed to require that, for this occasion, on grounds of good taste and feeling, the customary decoration should not take place. I may mention that one of the associations which ordinarily send wreaths voluntarily expressed its intention of omitting the observance this year for that very reason. The usual intimation by the Office of Works, referred to by the hon. Member, was given before the Queen's death.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Then I take it that the exception is made for this year only.

[No answer was returned.]

TELEPHONE CHARGES AT SHIELDS.

MR. LEVERTON HARRIS (Tynemouth): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that a charge of threepence is made to subscribers of the National Telephone Company for telegraphing from North to South Shields and *vice versa*, whereas no charge whatever is made for telephoning from Newcastle-on-Tyne to Gateshead, and, seeing that the National Telephone Company are prepared to undertake the service between North and South Shields and to make no extra charge for communication, he will recommend that the extra charge be abolished or permission be given to the National Telephone Company to undertake the service between North and South Shields.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): The cases are different. Newcastle-on-Tyne and Gateshead are included in the same Telephone Exchange area, while North Shields and South Shields are in different Exchange areas, which are connected by means of the Post Office trunk wires. The charge of threepence is the minimum charge for communication by trunk wires. The extent of the North Shields and South Shields areas, as well as of the Newcastle-on-Tyne area, was fixed by the Postmaster General, in conjunction with the National Telephone Company, and he is not prepared again to transfer the telephone business between North and South Shields to the Company.

DUCHY OF CORNWALL ROYALTIES.

MR. STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he will state how much of the £2,161 5s. 10d., stated in the Duchy of Cornwall Return for the year 1900 to have been received from royalty on coal raised in Somerset, was received from the lessees of the Farrington Gurney Colliery and how much from the lessees of the Clandown Colliery.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I have no information beyond that contained in the Parliamentary Return.

MR. STRACHEY: Does the hon. Gentleman mean he is unwilling or unable to furnish the information?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I have no information, except that contained in the Parliamentary Return, and I do not think it reasonable to call for the detailed information.

ILLEGAL TRAWLING IN SCOTTISH WATERS.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he will state how many convictions were obtained in the year 1900 against persons engaged in illegal trawling in Scottish waters, and in how many instances there was a repetition of the offence by the same master; will he state in how many cases the men elected to go to prison rather than pay the fines imposed; and whether, in all cases, the trawling gear of convicted trawlers was confiscated.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): The information asked for in the first paragraph of the hon. Member's question is in course of preparation by the Fishery Board for Scotland, in answer to an Order of the House of Commons moved for by the hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland. The information asked for in the second and third paragraphs will be given in the Board's forthcoming Annual Report.

MR. WEIR: And when will that Report be ready?

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: Next week, I hope. It is already in proof form.

MR. WEIR: Will it be in the hands of Members before the Estimate is taken?

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I hope so.

ILLEGAL TRAWLING IN BROAD BAY.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the Secretary for Scotland is aware that the Northern Lighthouse Commissioners have agreed to allow their lightkeepers at Tiumpan Head, Island of Lewis, to report to the fishery officer at Stornoway any trawlers observed illegally trawling in Broad Bay; will the Fishery Board consider the expediency of allowing each of the two lightkeepers the remuneration of 30s. per annum for his services as suggested by the Lighthouse Commissioners; and will arrangements be made for placing the lighthouse in telephonic communication with the post office at Portnaguran.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The matter has been fully considered by the Secretary for Scotland, and, as an experiment, it has been arranged with the Northern Light Commissioners that the keepers at Tiumpan Lighthouse shall keep a diary with particulars of any case of illegal trawling which may come under their notice during the day. The remuneration which should be given to the two light keepers for this extra duty is receiving consideration. It is not at present proposed to go to the expense of putting the lighthouse in telephonic communication with the telegraph office.

ILLEGAL TRAWLING OFF THE ISLAND OF FOULA.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether, seeing that information has been given to the Procurator Fiscal, Lerwick, that Messrs. James Isbister, Robert Manson, James Henry, and Andrew Henry, of the Island of Foula, Shetland, saw a trawler, P D 364, working within the limits on 21st October, 1900, he can state when the offender will be prosecuted.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I am informed that this case will be brought to trial within a fortnight. I am satisfied that the delay, which appears long, may be attributed to the difficulties of travelling which the Procurator Fiscal had to encounter. In winter the access to the Isle of Foula is always difficult and the means infrequent. The delay may properly be attributed, not to the fault of the Procurator Fiscal, but to the geographical peculiarities of the situation.

POULTRY BREEDING IN THE HIGHLANDS.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he will state whether the Congested Districts Board propose this year to distribute free sittings of eggs in the congested areas in each of the six Highland crofting counties, with a view to encourage and improve the breed of poultry; and will he say whether the experiments of last year have on the whole proved successful.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I am informed by the Congested Districts Board that the answer to the first paragraph of the hon. Member's question is yes to people who are really likely to help the Congested Districts Board to improve the breed of poultry. And to the second paragraph yes, on the whole, though the difficulties and delays attendant on transit in the remoter districts are against complete success.

AVOCH HARBOUR.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, in view of the fact that the existing harbour at Avoch, Ross-shire, is in so dilapidated a condition that a number of fishing boats at anchor in the harbour have been destroyed, will he state whether the Fishery Board for Scotland can take action; and, if not, will he say what steps should be taken to require the proprietor of the harbour to put the harbour in a proper state of repair.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I am informed by the Fishery Board that they had taken action and negotiations were proceeding when the hon. Member stopped them by raising technical legal questions as to ownership. The Board have no power to require the proprietor of the harbour to put the harbour in a proper state of repair.

MR. WEIR: I shall draw attention to this matter on the Estimates.

GREENOCK BOARD SCHOOLS.

MR. J. F. X. O'BRIEN (Cork): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether he is aware that the prizes purchased out of the local rates for the Greenock Board Schools are given for religious person for filling any office deemed necessary for the well-being of the sick poor. The answer to the second paragraph is in the negative. The Board will be guided by the decision of the Lord Lieutenant in Council on the Armagh case, and, as I have already stated, any representations that may be made by local authorities against the Order will be carefully considered by the Board.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the Local Government Board have refused to sanction the appointment of persons described as half-qualified, and thereby upset the action of the guardians?

MR. WYNDHAM: The duty of the Local Government Board is to refuse to sanction the appointment of those they hold to be not qualified.

MR. DALY: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the Local Government Board is in conflict with the boards of guardians because they refuse to sanction the appointment of persons the guardians deem to be qualified?

MR. WYNDHAM: I am not aware of that. I deeply regret it, but I am glad to say that many boards have recognised that the Local Government Board have acted in their interests.

LABOURERS' COTTAGES AT STRANORLAR.

MR. BOYLE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state when the representation was first made and approved of for building fifteen labourers' cottages in the Stranorlar Rural District, county Donegal; whether he is aware that the Local Government Board inspector only held the inquiry regarding same on the 27th November, 1900; and can he state the cause of the delay of the Local Government Board in issuing the Provisional Order for same.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Board has no information on the subject of the first paragraph. The Improvement Scheme was signed in July last; the documents in complete form were lodged with the Board in November, and the inquiry was held. There has been no delay on the part of the Board; a draft of the Provisional Order will be before the Council at its next meeting.

INNISHOWEN COAST—HARBOUR ACCOMMODATION.

MR. O'DOHERTY (Donegal, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if the attention of the Irish Government has been directed to the request by the Congested Districts Board for Ireland some months ago to take into consideration the provision of adequate harbour accommodation on the north coast of Innishowen, and to the opinion of the Board that deep sea fishing at Malin Head and Glengad cannot be properly developed without such harbour; and, seeing that hundreds of families in these districts depend solely for support upon the deep-sea fishing which during the winter, owing to the absence of a suitable harbour, could not be carried on with safety, and that some of the piers in these districts, which were built partly out of moneys locally supplied, but according to plans and sites selected by the Board of Works, which piers were designated on the cutting of the first sod of the Carndonagh Line of Railway by his predecessor as dry land piers, whether compensation will be made by the Government for the money thus expended by the Board of Works by a grant being given for the construction of a harbour, as recommended by the Congested Districts Board.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Congested Districts Board has expressed the opinion that the fishing industry cannot be largely developed on coast of Donegal unless a harbour of refuge be constructed. The natural facilities for such a harbour are not great, and its cost would be in excess of any sum which the Board could provide. Under these circumstances, the project is one which can only be considered in connection with similar projects of considerable magnitude.

MR. O'DOHERTY: I asked if representations had been made by the Congested Districts Board to the Irish Government in favour of a grant from imperial funds for the construction of a harbour of refuge.

Mr. WYNDHAM: I have said that the Board have expressed an opinion that these fisheries cannot be much developed without such a harbour.

Mr. O'DOHERTY: Will the right hon. Gentleman send down an engineer to inspect and report?

Mr. WYNDHAM: I see no objection to that, as a work of this magnitude could not be carried out with local means alone.

Mr. O'DOHERTY: The right hon. Gentleman has not answered the latter part of my question.

Mr. WYNDHAM: With all respect, I have answered it as fully as I can.

LIMAVADY WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. O'DOHERTY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland will he explain why the Local Government Board have threatened the Limavady Rural District Council to take action under Section 15 of the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1896, should the district council not proceed with a scheme for providing a water supply near the Ballykelly Railway Station, a rural district, not a town, although the existing water supply is satisfactory in quantity and quality to all parties in the district, including the sanitary officer of the district, who is also the medical officer, who has so certified that the water supply is fit for domestic use; was due inquiry made by the Board into the question whether the district council have been guilty of any default with reference to said water supply; and, if so, was an Order made by the said Board limiting the time for the performance of what the Local Government Board consider the duty of the district council; and will he state who held this inquiry, and upon whose complaint did the Local Government Board move in this matter.

Mr. WYNDHAM: A formal complaint under Section 15 of the Act of 1896 was made to the Board by residents of the district, including a rural district councillor, in October last. The rural council decline to take any steps towards improving the water supply, and the Board has intimated that it may be compelled to proceed under the enactment referred to. The Report of the Medical Officer of Health tended to show that the stream from which the water supply is taken is polluted. A public inquiry in pursuance of Section 15 has not yet been held.

ROYAL CANAL HARBOUR, LONGFORD.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether any resolution on the subject of the unprotected and dangerous state of the Royal Canal Harbour at Longford has been received from the County Longford Agricultural and Technical Industries Committee, and will he arrange that the section of the Agriculture (Ireland) Act, 1899, therein referred to will be given effect to by the Railway and Canal Commission.

Mr. WYNDHAM: At the request of my right hon. friend I will reply to this question. The resolution referred to has been received by the Department of Agriculture, who have been advised that the matter is not one in which action can be taken under Section 17 of the Act of 1899.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether any riders of coroners' juries at inquests held on the bodies of persons drowned in the Canal Harbour, Longford, have recently been received at his office, asking for a rail fence to be put round this harbour so as to protect human life; whether he is aware that within the past ten years seven persons have been drowned in it; and will he consider the advisability of extending the Canals Protection (London) Act to Ireland.

Mr. WYNDHAM: Six persons have been drowned in the Canal Harbour within the past ten years. No expressions of opinion on the part of the coroners' juries to the effect mentioned have been recently received by me. I have not had an opportunity of considering whether it is desirable, or necessary, that the Act referred to should be applied to Ireland. I will look into the matter.

MR. FARRELL: If a Bill is introduced, will the right hon. Gentleman facilitate its passage?

MR. WYNDHAM: I cannot give an undertaking until I have considered the character and necessity of such legislation.

LONGFORD RESIDENT MAGISTRATE.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the date of Mr. Kilkelly's appointment as resident magistrate of Longford, what is his salary, and whether he is allowed any travelling expenses; and is there a rule that resident magistrates who are in charge of a district for seven years shall then be changed to another district.

MR. WYNDHAM: Mr. Kilkelly was appointed resident magistrate for the Longford district on the 1st February, 1892. His salary is £550 a year, and he is allowed his travelling expenses outside a radius of fifteen miles from his station. The answer to the second paragraph is in the negative.

BANSHA GRAVEYARD.

MR. CULLINAN (Tipperary, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, with regard to the inquiry which has been ordered to be held in the board room at Tipperary on Wednesday, the 27th instant, into the overcrowded state of the Bansha graveyard, at which many witnesses will necessarily have to be examined, whether, for the convenience of the many parties interested, he would have the inquiry held in Bansha, where the court house would be found most suitable for the purpose.

MR. WYNDHAM: It will be open to the inspector to adjourn the inquiry to Bansha if he finds this course desirable, and I have caused the suggestion of the hon. Member to be communicated to him.

DROMARD PETTY SESSIONS.

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state how many times a year Courts of petty sessions, including sessions held by the Chairman of the Town Commissioners under the operation of the Towns Improvement Act, are held in Dromard, and what are the reasons which District Inspector Clayton, of Banbridge, gives to the Inspector General for not attending these sessions; whether he is aware that this officer spends most of his time in his own recreations instead of discharging his duty, and during the greater part of last September and October was incapacitated through an injury incurred in such recreations; and whether he will lay upon the Table copies of Monthly Return No. 8, as filled up by District Inspector Clayton and forwarded to the Inspector General.

MR. WYNDHAM: The petty sessions are held monthly. I have already stated that this officer's absences from petty sessions have been accounted for to the satisfaction of the Inspector General, and that he is not required to attend the sessions if he has more urgent duty to discharge elsewhere. I have no information as to the second paragraph. The reply to the third paragraph is in the negative.

LURGAN DISTURBANCES.

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that a Nationalist procession was on St. Patrick's Day attacked in Lurgan; can he state how many people were injured and the nature of their wounds; and how many arrests have been made.

MR. WYNDHAM: I am informed that when this procession was passing through Lurgan a few stones were thrown from both the Nationalist and Orange crowds. So far as the police have been able to ascertain, one person, a girl, was injured somewhat severely in the head. One arrest has been made, and the case will be investigated by the magistrates at petty sessions on the 16th April.

NORTH DONEGAL FISHERIES.

Mr. O'DOHERTY : I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a memorial was received some time ago by the Congested Districts Board from the fishermen and inhabitants of the Fannet peninsula of North Donegal requesting the Board to erect a boatslip at Araheera, a port frequented by fishermen, and pointing out that, owing to the absence of a boatslip, the fishermen could not take advantage of the herring fishing when plentiful in the waters about the headland ; and, seeing that the said port was inspected some time ago by a member of the Congested Districts Board, whether he can state what his report to the Board was, and whether the Board will carry out the proposed work.

Mr. WYNDHAM : The site of the suggested work has been visited by a member of the Congested Districts Board, but I cannot disclose his Report. The matter will be further considered by the Board at an early meeting.

IRISH RAILWAY GUARANTEES.

Mr. CONDON (Tipperary, E.) : I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland whether ratepayers in Ireland are entitled under the Local Government Act, 1898, to deduct half the amount payable by them in respect of railway guarantees such as the guarantee for the Southern Railway from Clonmel to Thurles.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL for IRELAND (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.) : This is an abstract question as to the proper construction of certain sections of the Local Government Act, 1898, and other statutes affecting the respective liabilities of landlord and tenant, and not relating to the administration of the Criminal Law or the action of any Department of the Irish Government. I must therefore respectfully decline to answer it.

PROPOSED IRISH DEPARTMENT AT THE BOARD OF TRADE.

Mr. FIELD : I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether it is intended to establish an Irish Department at the Board of Trade.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR : No, Sir.

COUNTY DOWN POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

Mr. DALY : I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that English and Scotch letters posted in Ballyroney, Katesbridge, and neighbourhood, county Down, are collected about 5 o'clock in the afternoon, brought to Newry, and remain there until the next day before being forwarded, three days from time of collection to delivery being thus required ; and if he will take steps to prevent such delay in future.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN : English and Scotch letters despatched from Ballyroney at 5.55 p.m. and from Katesbridge at 5 p.m. reach Newry at 9.10 p.m., and are forwarded thence early the following morning in time for despatch by the day mail from Dublin, reaching London and many other places in time for delivery the same evening. If posted at Ballyroney by 7.30 a.m. letters for England and Scotland would be delivered on the following morning. According to the latest returns the existing services to Ballyroney and Katesbridge are maintained at a considerable loss, and the Postmaster General regrets that he would not be justified in incurring additional expense for the purpose of improving them.

Mr. DALY : Am I to understand it does not take three days from the time of posting to that of delivery ?

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN : I understand it does not.

Mr. DALY : I shall put another question, for I am not satisfied with the reply.

Mr. DALY : I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that English and Scotch letters take almost three days from the time that they are posted until they are delivered in Ballyroney and Katesbridge, county Down ; and if he will take steps to have these mails sent on from Newry, which is the head office for the district, to Ballyroney and Katesbridge by either rail, car, or bicycle.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Letters sent from England and Scotland by night mail reach Ballyroney at 5.55 p.m. on the following evening, and can then be obtained on application at the post office. As there is no second post in the day to Katesbridge, such letters do not reach that place until the second day after posting. The question of establishing a second post to Katesbridge and an earlier arrival in the afternoon at Ballyroney was recently considered, but it was found that the circumstances did not warrant the cost.

PORTUMNA POSTMAN.

MR. ROCHE (Galway, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that Thomas Madden, Portumna, county Galway, resigned his position as postman after twenty-four years service on a representation made to him by the local postal authorities that he was to receive a pension, and has since been notified that he is not entitled to one; and whether, seeing that this postman received four badges for good conduct during his service and previously during nineteen years service in the Army received five war medals with three clasps, together with four badges for good conduct, his claim for a pension will be reconsidered.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Of the twenty-four years service rendered by Thomas Madden sixteen years were in the employment, not of the Department, but of the sub-postmaster of Portumna, and it was only in 1891 that he was employed by the Postmaster General as an unestablished postman. As he did not hold a Civil Service certificate he was ineligible for pension, but if he had completed fifteen years whole-time service as an unestablished postman he would have been eligible for the grant of a Compassionate Gratuity on retirement under the Superannuation Act. When his sick absences became such that he was no longer efficient he was given three months notice that it would be necessary to discontinue his employment, and no promise of either a pension or gratuity was made to him; but particulars of his entire service were called for in order that the case might be thoroughly examined. As, however, Madden had nine years service only as an unestablished postman, the Postmaster General was, he very much regrets, unable to obtain a gratuity for him on retirement. Madden is, it may be stated, in receipt of an Army pension.

MR. ROCHE: But is it not the fact that this man served the Post Office for a considerable number of years?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: That may be so, but the Postmaster General has no power to confer pensions for unestablished service in the Post Office.

DUBLIN SORTING OFFICE—DEFALCATIONS.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether the present Controller of the Dublin Sorting Office is held responsible for defalcations which occurred under his control, and whether the Department has decided that he shall make good the amount of some £1,600 to the Revenue; whether this official more recently misstated the facts in connection with complaints made by certain employees of the Department; and whether the Postmaster General contemplates allowing this official to permanently occupy the position of control which he at present holds.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The Controller of the Dublin Sorting Office has been informed that he is liable to be called upon to make good certain defalcations which have lately occurred, in consequence of frauds committed by one of the officers under his control. There is no ground whatever for suggesting that he has on any occasion been guilty of wilful misstatement; and there is no question of removing him from his present post.

ENNISKILLEN POST OFFICE.

MR. JORDAN (Fermanagh, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether the new post office in Enniskillen has yet been opened for the transaction of public business; and, if not, will he state the date at which it will be opened and whether a sub-office will be opened for the accommodation of the west side of the town on the removal of the principal office to the new premises in the east end.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The new post office at Enniskillen has not yet been opened for the transaction of public business. It is expected that the buildings will be finished in about a month. The question of opening a sub-office for the accommodation of the west end of the town on the removal of the head post office will be taken into consideration when the removal has been carried out.

WEST AUSTRALIA AND IRISH HOME RULE.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to a meeting held last year in Perth, West Australia, at which a resolution was passed to the effect that, in view of the services rendered by Irishmen to the British Empire, the time is opportune for a further attempt to recognise the claims of the Irish nation to self-government, in a form similar to that enjoyed by the Australian subjects of the Empire; and whether he has received a copy of this resolution at the Colonial Office, and whether any reply has been sent to it.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I received a copy of the resolution from the Governor of Western Australia last year, and acknowledged its receipt, informing the Governor that it had been laid before the Queen.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS IN THE TWO HOUSES—SUGGESTED TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATION.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether he will arrange for telephonic communication between the Government Benches in the Houses of Lords and Commons, to facilitate Ministers in answering questions about which it may be necessary they should in emergencies consult, with the object of having the same information supplied to both Houses of Parliament.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: No, Sir.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Cannot the right hon. Gentleman devise some means of communication so that we may have the information this House is entitled to?

[No answer was returned.]

*MR. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, seeing that an important statement was made yesterday at half-past four in the House of Lords, of which nothing was known by Ministers in this House at twenty minutes to six, he can arrange in future to afford this House the same information as is given in another place.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): The Government are always anxious that this House should be at no disadvantage in comparison with the other House with regard to information. But the hon. Gentleman has put his question under some misconception as to what really took place yesterday. The language of the question almost indicates that the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs had volunteered a statement in the other House, and that no corresponding statement was volunteered here; in other words, that the Government took the initiative in the House of Lords. I agree that it would be most improper for the Government to volunteer to the House of Lords a more or less elaborate statement on a question of foreign policy while no parallel course was taken in this House. But that is not what happened. What happened was that when Lord Lansdowne reached the House of Lords at half-past four o'clock yesterday, private notice of a question was given by Lord Spencer. That question was answered by Lord Lansdowne at a time when, usually, this House has completed the business of the day as far as questions and answers are concerned. It is to be regretted, no doubt, that such an instance should occur; but so long as you leave to each House the privilege of putting questions without previous notice, some accident of this kind is almost certain to occur. On the whole, I should say that it is not this House so much as the other House which has suffered most by the system. It has constantly happened that the Secretary of State for War or for the Colonies has been met on coming here with private notice of a question which he was prepared to answer, and which he has answered, without having the opportunity of communicating with his colleagues in the other House. That is what occurred yesterday, and, unless you are never to answer a question without notice, I do not see how such an accident can be avoided. I can give the House a positive assurance that we shall do our very best to see that all information of public interest which is conveyed to the other House shall at the same time be conveyed to this House.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): May I ask why, if Lord Lansdowne was prepared with the answer in the other House, the right hon. Gentleman was not prepared with an answer in this House?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Lord Lansdowne was asked when he came down whether he could answer the question. I was never given any notice of the putting of the question at all.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): Does the right hon. Gentleman say that Lord Spencer had not previously given notice of the question?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir, it was private notice. I had had no notice at all, or I should have done my best to give the House information.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS; My question was why, if Lord Lansdowne was prepared with an answer in the other House, the noble Lord was not prepared with similar information for this House.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: That seems to be a most unreasonable question. It is impossible to expect anyone but the head of a Department to have, in the form which can at once be given to the public, the latest information on every matter. No doubt there was present to the mind of the Under Secretary the telegram on which Lord Lansdowne based his answer; but if my noble friend had received notice of the question he would have had to consult Lord Lansdowne as to the form of the answer.

*MR. CORRIE GRANT: The right hon. Gentleman does not appreciate the point of the complaint. The statement of the Foreign Secretary was made at half-past four in the House of Lords, and what I wanted to suggest was that when a statement of that kind has been made in the House of Lords the Foreign Secretary should see that the information is conveyed to the House of Commons.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes, Sir, I think it would be a very good plan if, when any statement has been made in one House, communication of the fact should be made to the other House. But according to all practice and precedent the Foreign Secretary had every reason to think that we in this House had long passed the stage when it is possible to deal with such a matter by way of question and answer.

MR. CREAN (Cork, S.E.): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the Under Secretary had received private notice of the question from the hon. Member for West Waterford some hours before?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Member is mistaken. Private notice of a question was sent to my noble friend. That question was not in my noble friend's Department, but in that of the Secretary of State for India, and he answered it.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Will the right hon. Gentleman give an assurance that for the future the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs will put his representative in this House at once in possession of the important information which may come to him, so that that information may be conveyed simultaneously to both Houses?

[No answer was returned.]

PROPOSED QUESTION LIMITATION.

MR. RENWICK (Newcastle-on Tyne): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if, in order to facilitate the business of the House, he will consider the advisability of amending the Standing Orders so that no Member shall be entitled to ask more than one question in any day, and that no Member be entitled to speak for more than twenty minutes on any Bill, Amendment, Resolution, or Motion unless the House consents to grant an extension of time.

MAJOR RASCH: Before the right hon. Gentleman answers will he kindly consider the resolution moved by me on this subject and carried by a majority of three to one, although we had to except the two Front Benches?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not carry in my memory the exact circumstances attending the debate to which my hon. and gallant friend refers. But he has more than once drawn the attention of the House to this question, and has suggested that there should be a time-limit to speeches. Although the proposal met with considerable sympathy from all parts of the House, it was also felt that it would be a new limitation upon the general flexibility of debate, which certainly the House ought not to adopt without much fuller consideration and without, perhaps, even more painful experiences than those which we have gone through.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—EASTER HOLIDAYS.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he can now state when the House will rise for the Easter Recess and meet again for the despatch of business.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I had better defer any statement on this matter till next week. Perhaps the hon. Member will put down the question for Monday or Tuesday.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES BILL.

Order for Second Reading upon Thursday, 18th April, read, and discharged.

Bill withdrawn.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

DECLARATION AGAINST TRANSUBSTANTIATION.—That they have come to the following Resolution, namely: "That it is desirable that a Joint Committee of both Houses be appointed to consider the Declaration required of the Sovereign, on His Accession, by the Bill of Rights (1 Will. III., cap. 2, s. 1); and to report whether its language can be modified advantageously, without diminishing its efficacy as a security for the maintenance of the Protestant Succession."

That they have passed a Bill intituled, "An Act to constitute the town of Duns to be the head burgh or county town of Berwickshire." Berwickshire County Town Bill. [Lords.]

BERWICKSHIRE COUNTY TOWN BILL [LORDS].

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS IN THE TWO HOUSES.

[MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.]

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs) rose in his place, and asked leave to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, "the failure yesterday of His Majesty's Government to give to this House information on a critical situation in foreign affairs, while such communication was made to the other House of Parliament"; but the pleasure of the House not having been signified, Mr. SPEAKER called on those Members who supported the motion to rise in their places, and not less than forty Members having accordingly risen—

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The brief conversation which took place a few minutes ago on the subject of question and answer has thrown additional light on this subject. It is hardly necessary for me to recite the actual facts of the case, because they are within the memory of those present. But it is a matter which can cause no surprise either to the House or to the Government that some notice should be taken of what has occurred, in order to vindicate what has always been regarded as the clear right of this House, and to prevent by lapse of attention a precedent from being established on the ground of anything that occurred yesterday. The fact is that a certain statement was made to the House of Lords on a matter regarding which the public attention was stretched almost to its utmost limit, a matter which was exciting the greatest and most critical alarm throughout the country; and, on a question being addressed to the Government a short space of time afterwards in this House, they professed to have no information whatever to communicate upon a matter of public importance—namely, the events in China. That in itself is a question capable of two separate explanations. I do not know that if I give the Government the choice of these two explanations they will find themselves very well off, whichever of the two they accept. It may have been that they deliberately and of their own knowledge intended, and thought it a proper thing on their part to do, to conceal or refrain from communicating to this House information which a member of the Government was at the same time communicating to the other House. That is one interpretation of what happened. But there is another, and I am not sure that the second interpretation is not the more probable of the two. It may be that the representatives of the Government in this House were unaware of the facts which were being communicated in the other House. I wish to point out to the House that this is almost a more serious breach of the rights and privileges of this House than that which I have spoken of as the former alternative. We have neither the Prime Minister nor the Minister for Foreign Affairs present in this House. We have an Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs who, subject to very strict limitations, answers, and answers extremely well, all the questions addressed to him; but we have also here the Leader of the House, the First Lord of the Treasury; and I maintain that, in the absence of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and of the Prime Minister, we are entitled to look to the Leader of the House as the most important member of the Government in the House, and as the personage fully informed upon all questions of urgency in connection with Foreign Affairs.

Here was an urgent matter if ever there was one. It was a matter, not of months, weeks, or days, but apparently of hours and almost of minutes. Two forces were arrayed almost in the face of each other, and at any moment a foolish act might have precipitated a conflict between two Great Powers. Am I to be told that while that is the condition of things the Leader of the House, to whom we are to look for full information, was not aware of the communications which had passed either from St. Petersburg to London or from London to St. Petersburg? Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman will be able to tell us, what does not appear, I think, very clearly at present, when the despatch was received from St. Petersburg and when it was answered, because it seems to me that if that was done within a considerable interval of time before the meeting of the House yesterday, it was the bounden duty of those responsible to have informed the First Lord of the Treasury, in order that he might be able to answer any question which might be addressed to him on a matter upon which a question was almost certain to be put in such a state of public opinion as existed. It is on that condition alone that the House of Commons can maintain its hold over and power of influencing the conduct of foreign affairs. We receive from the Under Secretary, as I have already said, information on matters of detail; but when it comes to a question of great urgency and of a critical nature, under such circumstances we look for something more than that, and we do not expect to be put aside with the usual technical excuse about want of notice, when, as we have now found, at the moment the Government were in possession of the full information. If they did not communicate it to the House it was either because in the opinion of the Government it was not necessary to pay the House of Commons the compliment of making that communication, or because the members of the Government who sit here and represent the Government were not themselves aware of what had occurred. I have spoken of this as an alternative, but I cannot wish the right hon. Gentleman joy whichever of the two options he accepts.

I think at least that we are entitled to call upon the right hon. Gentleman to give some fuller explanation than has yet been given of these circumstances, which throw a strange light on the relations between the executive Government in this House, and which I think deserve the immediate attention which I have asked the House to give. I do not wish to say a word in derogation of the dignity and importance of the other House of Parliament, but this House, after all, has most to do with the conduct of the affairs of this country. It is here that we ought to have the first and fullest information upon all critical matters on which the mind of the country is greatly exercised; and I think the right hon. Gentleman will be glad to take the opportunity which this motion offers him of explaining more fully than he has yet been able to do the reasons why yesterday he appeared to depart from that which seemed to be due to the dignity and interests of the House of Commons.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I must say, with all respect to the right hon. Gentleman in his personal capacity and as leader of a great party, that I do not think I ever heard the adjournment of the House moved on a more frivolous pretext than that which he has just stated. After all, in the course of what the right hon. Gentleman called the question and the answer across the floor of the House the fullest information was given by me of all the circumstances connected with this affair, and the right hon. Gentleman has not remembered what those circumstances were. He seems to think that we were in the position in which Lord Lansdowne was in the other House; that is to say, that we had received, as he had received, private notice of a question on the subject. But we received no notice at all, and when the hon. Member for Carnarvon Boroughs asked whether we were going to make a statement similar to that made by Lord Lansdowne we had not the slightest idea what the statement was, and we could not have the information unless Lord Lansdowne had at once sent it down here, which no doubt would have been a desirable thing, but which, as I have pointed out, it is really absurd to attack Lord Lansdowne for not doing, inasmuch as he had good ground for supposing that question time was over in this House. Lord Spencer, acting in the other House as Leader of the Opposition, asked the question at half-past four o'clock. Why did not Lord Spencer send down here and say that he had asked the question, and that a similar question should be put to me or my noble friend from the bench opposite, in which case it would have been answered here as in another place?

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): Then you did know?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: If the question had been put here it would have been answered.

*MR. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby): When I asked the right hon. Gentleman about this subject yesterday, having just come from the House of Lords, the right hon. Gentleman said in reply that this was the first he had heard of the subject.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It was the first I had heard of the fact that the subject had been raised in the House of Lords itself. There was no specific question put to me on the fact itself yesterday. If there had been a question asked it must have been specific, and, at all events, the Minister who had to answer it must have been given a moderate amount of notice. But there was no notice given, public or private, and no question was put.

*MR. CORRIE GRANT: If the right hon. Gentleman will refer to *The Times* report which he has by him, I think it will be seen that I asked the right hon. Gentleman whether it was not a fact that Lord Lansdowne had made a statement in the House of Lords at 4.30 in answer to Lord Spencer. I thought that the right hon. Gentleman would naturally wish to communicate similar facts to the House.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: This is what appeared in *The Times*—

> "Mr. Grant asked whether a full statement by the Foreign Secretary was not made in the other House at half-past four o'clock in answer to Earl Spencer. Mr. Balfour.—This is the first intimation I have received of it. I have no doubt that if the hon. Gentleman says it is so it is true, but I am not aware of it."

I think that settles the hon. Gentleman so far as that particular point is concerned. The questions put to us were as to what occurred in the other House. That we had no official means of knowing. As a matter of fact we did not know. If the hon. Gentleman chooses to say that Lord Lansdowne should have sent down to say, "Lord Spencer gave private notice of a question; I have answered it," I think that would have been a desirable thing to have said. But in twenty-nine cases out of thirty, as anybody sees who looks at the clock now, it would have been perfectly vain as far as this House is concerned, because at the moment when the question of Lord Spencer was answered by Lord Lansdowne we enter upon the Orders of the Day, and the opportunity of giving an answer is passed. I hope that puts the matter clearly. Of course we are not backward in answering questions, and what astonishes me is, if the right hon. Gentleman was on the tenter-hooks of expectation, as he now describes himself, with regard to the incidents at Tientsin, that he did not imitate the example of his colleague in the other House, and did not send private notice either to my noble friend the Secretary of State for India, to myself, or to the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Had he done so, had he shown or had any Member of this House shown this extraordinary anxiety which it appears they felt with regard to Tientsin, and given us notice, they would have received, of course, similar information in this House to that which we gave in another House. I do not understand why the hon. Gentleman opposite should make a complaint of not receiving an answer to a question which he never put, and which, if he had put it with the ordinary notice given in such cases, would, I feel sure, have received the fullest and most careful consideration.

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): The right hon. Gentleman has not addressed himself to the question that was put to him yesterday by the hon. Member for Carnarvon. I have the words he used here, and he said—

> "May I ask whether an arrangement has been arrived at whereby both Russian and British troops are to retire from the disputed territory, that matters are to be referred to Count von Waldersee, and that an apology is to be offered by the party found to be in the wrong."

And the question is, why the Leader of the House did not answer the inquiry. That brings before the House a matter of the most vital importance, and that is the relation of the Leader of the House of Commons to this Assembly (for I do not enter upon any question of Under Secretaries here). I have sometimes had the honour and responsibility of occupying that position, and the first condition that I specially made on accepting that duty was that when the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary were in the other House, whatever office the Leader of the House of Commons might hold, he should be placed in relation to foreign affairs in as full and immediate knowledge of every matter of importance as was the Prime Minister or the Foreign Secretary. I put it specifically on this ground that unless that condition was fulfilled I could not discharge the duties that I owed to the House of Commons. Therefore, passing by Under Secretaries altogether, I maintain that the House of Commons has a right at every moment to expect that the Leader of this House shall give as full information to this House upon foreign affairs as could the Prime Minister or the Foreign Secretary if he were sitting here.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Nobody denies that. All that is asked for is that when information is wanted some notice, private or public, should be given.

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: Sir, when there is a question of critical importance and the Leader of this House has that knowledge I should have thought that to relieve public anxiety in all parts of this country it would have been a very proper thing to have volunteered the information or to have solicited some one to put a question in order that such an answer should be given. The right hon. Gentleman has not answered the question put to him by my right hon. friend near me. He has not said when the Russian despatch arrived; he has not told us when that despatch was answered; he has not stated when it came to his knowledge that those despatches had been received and answered; and he has not told us whether, when the question was put yesterday in the House of Commons, he knew the terms of that settlement. If that be so, I venture to say that the Leader of the House of Commons is not in the position we have a right to expect, upon matters of this importance, to give us information to which we are entitled. Here is a specific question put to him which contained, and accurately contained, the terms of settlement. Why did not he answer it? Did he know it? He has not told us whether he knew it or not. If he knew it, why at the end of this interrogation did not he give an answer? He has answered neither of these questions. He has not told us whether he knew, and why, if he knew, he did not give an answer. I venture to say that such a situation has never before in the House been occupied by any Leader. I say it is the bounden duty of the Leader of this House to be in a position to answer questions of that kind on critical foreign affairs, and it is for that reason that this question has been properly raised here. I have frequently put questions when I considered them of high and critical importance, not to the Under Secretary, but to the Leader of the House, because the Leader of the House being a principal, and for our purposes the principal, member of the Cabinet here, we have a right to expect that he knows everything not merely that the Cabinet knows, because you cannot always call the Cabinet together in a moment, but everything that the Foreign Minister knows, everything that the Prime Minister knows —that it should be immediately communicated to him, not merely because he is a member of the Cabinet, but, above all, because he is the Leader of the House of Commons. The House of Commons is the body that has the first right to have information upon these questions that so vitally concern the interests of the nation. An Under Secretary may require notice of what answer to give, but the position of the right hon. Gentleman as a principal member of the Cabinet and as Leader of the House of Commons ought to require no notice at all. He cannot get up and say he knows nothing at all about it. He has not told us——

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I never did say that.

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: He has not told us—he has been asked and he has not answered—when it was that this information came to his knowledge, when he saw the telegram that was sent from Russia, when he saw the despatch or telegram by which it was answered. If he had seen those telegrams why should he have refrained from stating to the House that which it would have been a great satisfaction to the House and the country to know? That is a thing on which we have received no information yet. I do not put it upon the question of notice or on the ground of the Under Secretary being prepared or not prepared, but simply and plainly upon the ground that we have a right to information from the member of the Government who is responsible to this House in such matters when a critical question of this kind arises. As to notice being required, what notice could be required that a question would be asked about the position of affairs between Russia and England at Tientsin? It was absolutely certain that a question would be asked, and if it was not possible at that time to give an answer, then no answer could have been given no doubt. But when there was a satisfactory answer, when a matter had been settled, when all danger was removed, why in the world that question was not answered has not been explained by the right hon. Gentleman in anything that he has said to-night.

*SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): It must be evident to the majority of this House that this motion for adjournment is a tempest in a teapot. The right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House, in his opening statement, in answer to a question put, took the sting out of the complaint, and gave really to the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition the opportunity of not moving the adjournment. The Leader of the House has told us in the clearest possible way that the Government have no intention and had no intention of refusing information to the House of Commons. He has promised, in addition to that, that he will make every effort to supply all the information which he possesses so as to keep the House up to date in regard to these important issues. It is evident that a slight slip has occurred somewhere. Humanity is subject to slight slips, especially in cases of this importance, where negotiations are conducted by telegraph. It is perfectly clear to every hon. Member that the Foreign Secretary, the Minister responsible, may have received information, or may have sent a final telegram, within half an hour or quarter of an hour before coming down to the House of Lords, and it may have been impossible to communicate it to his colleagues in this House. If the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House had not taken the line he has done in promising all information to the House, and in regretting that any information had been withheld from the House owing to accident, there might have been some good reason for a motion for adjournment. I would point out to the Leader of the Opposition what a mistake he and his friends make in occupying the time of the House on questions like this when they absolutely neglect their duty on questions of far greater importance. They have absolutely failed to take any steps to bring any of these great issues in China before the House and the country. They might have raised debates in regard to Manchuria, the seizure of our railways in North China, the proposed evacuation of Peking, or the refusal of the Russian Minister in Peking to agree to the punishment of high-placed Chinese criminals. If the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition had taken action on any of these subjects he would have been acting in a way worthy of his position; but after the explanations offered by the Leader of the House it is wholly unnecessary to take up the time of the House by this idle motion for adjournment.

MR. JOSEPH WALTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley): We have reason to complain that the Government does not give to the House in regard to important foreign affairs all the information which, with due regard to the public interest, they might afford us. On Monday last I put a question to the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs—

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! There is a definite case before the House, and the hon. Gentleman cannot go into other cases.

MR. JOSEPH WALTON: I bow to your ruling, Mr. Speaker. I can only express my hope that in the future, as promised by the First Lord of the Treasury, closer relations will be maintained between himself and the Minister for Foreign Affairs in the House of Lords, in order that this House may have always early information in regard to matters of extreme importance to this country.

*MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): The right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House has stated that he never knew of a more frivolous pretext for a motion for the adjournment of the House than that offered by the Leader of the Opposition, but the object of the motion of the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition is to protest against the frivolous manner in which the Government have treated the House of Commons in this matter. I asked the Leader of the House why, if Lord Lansdowne was prepared to give an answer in the House of Lords, he was not prepared to give an answer here. The right hon. Gentleman treated my question as one of a general character; but the special object of my question was to indicate that if Lord Lansdowne was informed about a matter of great national importance, one which must necessarily be settled by the Government as a whole, it was the duty of the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House to be able to furnish the House of Commons at once with the information which Lord Lansdowne was prepared to give to the House of Lords. What was the question which the hon. Member for Carnarvon asked yesterday? It was whether the right hon. Gentleman had any announcement to make as to the negotiations between Russia and this country. Now, a settlement could not possibly have been arrived at without the knowledge of the Government of which the right hon. Gentleman is a principal member; and yet the reply of the right hon. Gentleman was, "No, Sir; I have no statement to make." But Lord Lansdowne had a statement to make in the House of Lords, and was prepared to make it on short private notice, and without making any reference to official documents. Why was not the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House in a position to give the House of Commons the same information? Then, later on, the hon. Member for Carnarvon asked this question very pointedly; he said—

> "May I ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether an arrangement has been arrived at whereby both Russian and British troops are to retire from the disputed territory, that matters are to be referred to Count Von Waldersee, and that an apology is to be offered by the party found to be in the wrong?"

Now that is a question of the most specific character possible, and the right hon. Gentleman either knew or did not know what were the facts. If he knew the facts, what excuse has he for not communicating them to the House? If he did not know these facts, how came it that other people knew them hours before? The hon. Gentleman the Member for Carnarvon asked for an answer to the specific question which he put and to that the right hon. Gentleman did not deign to give any reply whatever. This House, after all, is the representative Assembly of the country, and whatever respect we may have for the other House it has not the representative character which this House possesses. It is this House which disburses all the funds for carrying on foreign wars, and on a question of this kind—of a grave international question arising between this country and Russia—this House ought to have the first information. Now, I desire to ask the right hon. Gentleman specifically, Did he know or did he not know the terms which had been arranged with Russia when he came down to the House yesterday?

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.) said it seemed to him that the vital part of this discussion as he looked at it appeared to be that the Government did not appreciate the real feeling of the country. On the previous day the country had been very much concerned at the position which had arisen between this country and Russia in China. The Government hardly seemed to realise the extreme feeling which had arisen on this important matter, because, had they done so, directly the new communication had come to Lord Lansdowne he would have at once informed the Leader of the House, and the House would not have had to ask for information, because that information would have been volunteered. He had always thought that the formation of the Government was such, especially what was termed the internal Cabinet, that intercommunication between Ministers was rendered as easy as it was possible to be by domestic affairs. The House, seemingly, had lost the advantage of that intercommunication, because the Leader of the House did not know anything about this matter. If the right hon. Gentleman did know about it the position of things became more extraordinary than ever. If a matter of this importance was known to the right hon. Gentlemen, surely it was only right and proper that the information should have been put before the House at once. Having regard to the extreme tension of the country and its anxiety upon the matter it would have been only fair to volunteer the information.

MR. PHILIPPS (Pembrokeshire) asked did the right hon. Gentleman yesterday, when the question was put to him, know, or did he not, that the question had been answered in the House of Lords? The right hon. Gentleman had shown considerable heat in the matter when one of his supporters had taken it for granted that he did not know of the answer yesterday. He (Mr. Philipps) was one of those who on the previous day heard the question asked, and, rightly or wrongly, thought from the answer given the right hon. Gentleman knew nothing whatever about the subject. Would the right hon. Gentleman now say whether he did or did not know? The right hon. Gentleman was extremely angry when the House took it for granted that he did not know.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am not angry at all. I do not care what you assume.

MR. PHILIPPS did not suppose the hon. Gentleman cared what assumption was made. He could only judge from his action, and the right hon. Gentleman certainly did show extreme annoyance when one of his supporters assumed that he did not know. Why could not the right hon. Gentleman answer the question? Why could not he volunteer the information? The noble Lord the Member for Rochester had stated that he was not allowed to answer extemporary questions, and no doubt there were good and wise reasons for that, but was the process to be carried further? Did the Government now assume that the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury was not a fit and proper person to be trusted with information? Was it possible that the Government were telling him nothing? Either the right hon. Gentleman did not know, in which case it was a matter for the discretion of the Government, or he did know, and if he did, then he had cleverly concealed his knowledge on the previous day, and was continuing to conceal it. The House had become a good deal accustomed to wars and rumours of wars under the present Government, but many hon. Members not yet habituated to rumours might think a war with Russia at this time on the top of our other liabilities a sufficiently serious matter for the right hon. Gentleman to take an interest in. If the right hon. Gentleman did know the position on the previous day, he had been guilty of an act of great levity in not making a statement in regard to it. If the right hon. Gentleman did not know, it looked very much as if the inner circle of the Cabinet of which the House had heard so much had been restricted to a still narrower limit, and that not only the noble Lord but the right hon. Gentleman himself was not to be trusted to answer extemporary questions on foreign policy, which might account for the heat he had shown.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing) said a few words from him might possibly put an end to a discussion which, so far as he could see, was really a sheer waste of time. Not one of the gentlemen who had spoken had shown the least appreciation of the facts. He thought he could in half a dozen words make perfectly clear what the situation was. The situation at Tientsin at one time was a very critical one, and if there had been a collision it would have been difficult to see what the end would be. Therefore, when negotiations were opened for the purpose of settling the Tientsin dispute in a satisfactory manner, it was essential that not a single word should be said until these negotiations had gone so far as to make it certain that the arrangement proposed had been finally accepted by both parties. Did not that explain the position? Yesterday the Government were in possession of a satisfactory proposal from the Russian Government, but they had to send an answer to that proposal. That answer was sent, and it was not until the Government knew that it was accepted that it was possible for anyone to make a statement in the House. The only person who could judge as to when a statement could be made was the man in charge of the negotiations. Although his right hon. friend and the noble Lord the Under Secretary and himself knew what was going on, not one of them could have ventured to open his mouth until he knew the transaction was closed. He believed Lord Lansdowne had no intention of making a statement on the subject, but he was conducting the negotiations, and just before he left his office he believed they had got to such a point that it was possible to make a statement without in any way endangering the success of the negotiations. When Lord Lansdowne got to the House of Lords, Lord Spencer, as he understood without notice, intimated that he wished to put a question, and he being in possession of all the facts, which, of course, none of the Ministers in the House of Commons knew——

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: Then the right hon. Gentleman did not know?

LORD G. HAMILTON: Lord Lansdowne, knowing exactly how far the negotiations had gone, and this nobody else could have known at that moment, for it was a question of minutes or, at least, half-hours——

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: Might I ask at what hour was the reply sent?

LORD G. HAMILTON said it was a close shave between the time the answer was sent and the time the statement was made by the Foreign Secretary. Although

Ministers in the House of Commons were in full possession of the proposals made, and although they believed that the acceptance of them would conclude the negotiations, there was not a single man in the House with any sense of responsibility who would have ventured to make a statement to the House on the actual information then in their possession. The only man to whom it was possible to make a statement was the Foreign Minister, who went to the House of Lords, he believed, without any intention of doing so, The India Office was next door to the Foreign Office, and he was in constant communication with his brother official, who certainly would have informed him if he had any intention of making a statement.

Mr. JOHN MORLEY (Montrose Burghs): May I ask the noble Lord whether Lord Lansdowne did or did not inform Lord Spencer that if a question were put he would be prepared with an answer?

Lord G. HAMILTON: All I can say is that while Lord Lansdowne was seised with full information, not one of us in the House of Commons was in a position to take the full responsibility, having a sense of what might have been entailed by the failure of the negotiations, to make a statement in the House, which must have been immature or premature. When certain gentlemen came back from the other place yesterday they said a statement had been made. I still think that if the Leader of the Opposition had put a definite question as to whether these negotiations were proceeding satisfactorily, we could have given the answer that they were; but we could not possibly have made the statement that they were concluded. So far from not taking the House into our confidence or wishing to deprive hon. Members of information to which they might be legitimately entitled, whatever reticence was shown yesterday was due to the fact that we knew what was going on, and, knowing what was going on, we felt it our duty not to say a single syllable which might prejudice the negotiations.

Mr. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton): The right hon. Gentleman has made the case very much worse. He says that Lord Lansdowne was asked this question in the House of Lords without notice. Now, the right hon. Gentleman here had notice.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Without public notice.

Mr. LAMBERT: I understand that Lord Spencer, when he came to the House of Lords, asked Lord Lansdowne whether he could make a statement or not. The noble Lord the Secretary for India had notice of a question to this effect when he came down to this House.

Lord G. HAMILTON: And I answered all the questions put to me.

Mr. LAMBERT: If the right hon. Gentleman had any respect for the honour and dignity of this House, he would have given the same answer here as Lord Lansdowne gave in the House of Lords. Lord Lansdowne's statement was made in the House of Lords at 4.30, and the right hon. Gentleman was not asked here until 5.30, so that he had really an hour wherein he could get the information from Lord Lansdowne. I maintain that the noble Lord the Secretary for India, in that confused statement of his, has actually shown that he deliberately treated the House of Commons with disrespect in this matter. He cannot get away from the fact that while Lord Lansdowne had short notice indeed, he had ample notice, and that he withheld the information from the House. When the right hon. Gentleman says that it is a sheer waste of time for the Leader of the Opposition to get up to vindicate the honour of the House, I begin to think that he forgets what is due to the hon. Gentlemen who are elected by the people of this country. I venture to say that the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouthshire, if such a question had been put to him when he was Leader of the House as was put to the noble Lord yesterday, would have answered it, and given the fullest information in his power. If we had been on the verge of war with Russia, does the right hon. Gentleman mean to say that we in this House are not entitled to know something on such an important subject? We were entitled to the information as early as the other House, especially when notice was given to the noble Lord the Secretary of State for India. The noble Lord says, "I am in full communication with Lord Lansdowne, but I could not venture to make a statement bearing on the negotiations." But Lord Lansdowne made a statement in the House of Lords an hour earlier, almost without notice. I contend that the House of Commons has been treated with disrespect, and it was the obvious duty of the Leader of the Opposition to bring the matter before the country.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs): There was one observation which fell from the noble Lord which is not quite consistent with the information I have had of the circumstances in the House of Lords. The noble Lord the Secretary for India, in defending the action of the Government, stated that Lord Lansdowne was taken unawares, that his answer was impromptu, and that he had no intention of making a statement. As a matter of fact, Lord Lansdowne had his answer written. When he was asked the question by Lord Spencer he took a written statement out of his pocket and read it. How does the noble Lord find this consistent with his statement that it was an absolutely impromptu statement on the part of Lord Lansdowne? The Government had no information yesterday as to what happened in China; they have no information to-day as to what actually happened in the House of Lords. Either they give no information to the House of Commons at all, or the information they give is not absolutely reliable. Surely this is a very serious state of things. Here is a matter which might have involved war between two of the greatest Powers in the world. We know what war means even with two small Republics in South Africa. Here we have troops facing each other, not knowing the moment we might be precipitated into war with Russia. We were informed that Russia would accept nothing but an apology. A question is put to the First Lord of the Treasury, the Leader of the House of Commons, as to what happened, and he says he does not know.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: What had happened in the House of Lords.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I beg the right hon. Gentleman's pardon. He has forgotten what he said yesterday. I asked him specifically, not what had happened in the House of Lords, but what had happened in China, and the right hon. Gentleman turned round in blank astonishment, and asked everybody whether they knew what had happened in China.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Gentleman is not quoting accurately. I did not say I was unaware of what was happening in China.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.): Did you know?

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I know that I asked the right hon. Gentleman what had happened, and, if he knew, he was deliberately concealing from the House of Commons what had already been given to the House of Lords. One of two things must have happened. Either the right hon. Gentleman knew or he did not. If he knew that an arrangement had been arrived at, and did not answer the question respectfully addressed to him, he must have been deliberately withholding the information from the House of Commons. The other alternative, I think, is the true one. It is the one which, I think, is borne out by the action of the right hon. Gentleman. He did not know what was happening at all. What a Government we have got! No wonder they are making a mess in South Africa. They do not know what wars they have on. We have one office taunting the other, one saying "These wars belong to you," the other saying, "No, they belong to you," and another Minister, the Leader of the House of Commons, does not know whether there is war or not with Russia. It is a serious state of things. [Mr. BALFOUR, ironically: Hear, hear.] Yes, and it is by treating these things with a light spirit here that wars are precipitated.

MR. GOULDING (Wiltshire, Devizes): It is by inopportune questions.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE: Are they inopportune in the House of Lords? A question invited by the Foreign Minister in the House of Lords is inopportune when it is asked in the House of Commons! This is part and parcel of an attempt which seems to me to be deliberate, step by step, to lower the dignity and the efficiency of the House of the people, and it is time that without any respect to party at all we should protest against a Government whose whole conduct is deliberate contempt of the House of Commons.

Mr. MALCOLM (Suffolk, Stowmarket): A great deal of heat seems to have been engendered by this motion to adjourn the House. We are told that the public was waiting with extreme anxiety to know what was going on, and that the Government were withholding from the public what it ought to know. It seems to me that if there was all this great anxiety, and so much indignation on account of the action taken yesterday, the motion for the adjournment ought to have been made yesterday, and not this afternoon. I think it is an extraordinary illustration of the anxiety of this House that it should be translated in the form of a supplementary question put by an hon. Member who had just come from the House of Lords, having heard the answer he desired to obtain. The hon. Member for Carnarvon said there appeared to be some doubt as to whether the First Lord of the Treasury knew.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE: No doubt at all.

Mr. MALCOLM: The hon. Member has been carried away by the autobiography of the right hon. Baronet the Member for West Monmouthshire. He said he made it a condition that he should know all that the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister knew of Foreign Affairs. Fancy having to make such a condition before you take office! That is the revelation of a secret of the late Cabinet for which we are grateful to the right hon. Gentleman.

*Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT: Will the hon. Member allow me to say that I was placed in a position of difficulty which was not felt under the former Government. When I succeeded to office I was placed in the position of not having the Prime Minister in the House of Commons. The difficulty arose from the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary both being in the House of Lords. Everybody knows that in Foreign Affairs communication is direct between the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary, and therefore it was necessary that communication between the Leader of this House and the Foreign Secretary should be as direct as it is between the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary.

Mr. MALCOLM: It is extremely necessary, not only for the safety of this country, but for the safety and good feeling of other countries, that the declaration made should be identical in form in this House and the other House. Hon. Members are not so absolutely unacquainted with the English language as not to know that the same statement might be put in one form in this House and in another form in the other House, and it might easily appear, and indeed it has appeared, to foreign nations that the two Houses are contradicting each other. It would have been possible to give the same answer here if Lord Spencer had persuaded his colleagues on the Front Opposition Bench to take the same step as he took to translate the public interest in the matter by asking a question. I think my right hon. friend the First Lord of the Treasury is safeguarding the interests of the nation by refusing to answer questions without notice as he did yesterday afternoon.

Mr. POWER (Waterford, E.): I do not think the part taken by the Secretary of State for India in this debate has improved the position of the Government. The First Lord complains that notice was not given of a question in this House, and I believe one of his explanations with regard to this particular matter is that due notice was given in the House of Lords to the Minister responsible. I wish to remind hon. Members that a written notice of his intention to ask a question on this subject was handed in by my hon. friend and colleague several hours before Lord thing on such an important subject? We were entitled to the information as early as the other House, especially when notice was given to the noble Lord the Secretary of State for India. The noble Lord says, "I am in full communication with Lord Lansdowne, but I could not venture to make a statement bearing on the negotiations." But Lord Lansdowne made a statement in the House of Lords an hour earlier, almost without notice. I contend that the House of Commons has been treated with disrespect, and it was the obvious duty of the Leader of the Opposition to bring the matter before the country.

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Lansdowne came down with a written explanation. That shows that the Government were in possession of the facts, while at the same time the noble Lord here was pretending he had not been given sufficient notice. Moreover, if the answers given in the two Houses are compared it will be seen that they differ in every material point; and whereas the explanation given in the other place was full, that given here was meagre and evaded nearly all the points raised by my hon. friend. The contention now put forward that the answering of the question might endanger the negotiations was not raised yesterday, and nothing can be clearer than that information in the possession of the Government was refused to the House of Commons, but given to the House of Lords. That is only in keeping with the treatment we have received at the hands of this family Cabinet and with the manner in which the present Government has behaved towards the House of Commons.

*MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): I think the words used by the First Lord of the Treasury and the Secretary of State for India in the first sentences of their speeches amply justify this motion. The First Lord actually used the word "frivolous," while the Secretary of State for India thought this a waste of time. If anything were needed to prove the want of appreciation they have of the occurrence of last night those expressions would reveal it to the House. Even now we are left in ignorance as to whether the First Lord actually was cognisant of what was known and stated by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. I rather gathered from the noble Lord the Secretary for India that he knew nothing about it. As to the opportunity given yesterday for answering the question there can be no doubt whatever, as a specific question was put by the hon. Member for Carnarvon. Why was no answer given to that question? The right hon. Gentleman had as ample an opportunity for answering that question as Lord Lansdowne had in the House of Lords if he was able to do so from his own knowledge. If he was not able he stands convicted.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: If the hon. Member will pardon my interruption, I may say that nothing could induce me to answer a difficult and delicate question of that kind under those circumstances without having some opportunity of knowing what my noble friend had said, especially in regard to negotiations of that kind.

*MR. JOHN ELLIS: There was an opportunity of getting to know, since the question was not put here until an hour after Lord Lansdowne's reply in another place. But I will pass from that. We are discussing merely an incident, but it is a very grave symptom in regard to the treatment of this House by the Government. We are entitled to receive from the Executive Government of the day on all the important matters which are proceeding the very latest and fullest information. We are the representatives of the taxpayers, and I must say I am astonished at the attitude of hon. Members opposite. Some of them will come back after the next election and some will not, but apparently they might as well be coming here as mere voting machines. We are all Members of Parliament, and whether we sit on the one side or the other everyone is entitled to the fullest and latest information from the Executive Government. I do hope the right hon. Gentleman will lay aside this terrible nonchalance in regard to matters concerning this House, and that he will see that we have at all times the fullest and latest information laid before us as to the conduct of the Executive Government in such very grave matters.

MR. O'SHEE (Waterford, W.): I desire to call the attention of the House to the manner in which the Secretary of State for India answers questions of which he receives due notice. The question was put to him whether additional British troops had reached Tientsin yesterday or to-day, or were expected to arrive there immediately, and the answer was that a certain number of white troops had been substituted for certain of the native Indian troops at Tientsin. That answer conveyed the impression to the House that a certain number of native troops were withdrawn——

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! That matter is not within the leave given. It was referred to by another hon. member, and I did not interrupt because it was merely suggested that the question had given an opportunity to the noble Lord to make the statement which Lord Lansdowne is said to have just made in another place. It is only in that light that the reference was in order.

Mr. O'SHEE: I understand the motion for adjournment was made on the ground that the Government have declined to give information to this House on important public questions——

*Mr. SPEAKER: On a certain specific case yesterday.

Mr. O'SHEE: I submit that the specific case was the position of affairs at Tientsin, and therefore I am entitled—

*Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member cannot deal on this motion with the question of whether or not the noble Lord the Secretary of State for India answered a question about reinforcements at Tientsin in a proper manner.

Mr. O'SHEE: What I desire to point out by way of illustration is that on this particular matter——

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member must really conform to my ruling.

Mr. O'SHEE: Then I will only refer incidentally to this question. In connection with this matter the Government undoubtedly refused information which was at the disposal of the public through the ordinary channels of communication, and if the Government are entitled, having had notice of a question, to refuse information which has already become known through the public press, it is an extraordinary state of affairs. I submit that the action of the Government with reference to that specific question was inconsistent——

*Mr. SPEAKER again called the hon. Member to order.

Mr. O'SHEE: Well, Sir, I support this motion on the ground that in this matter the Government has not treated this House with proper consideration, and I hope that the protest which has been made this evening will have some effect in changing to some extent the attitude of the Government in its treatment of this House.

Mr. ROBSON (South Shields): I would point out to the House the very narrow point to which the matter in controversy has now been reduced, and how on that very narrow point we are still refused any kind of material information. When the discussion started the House was in doubt as to whether the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury did or did not possess the information for which we on this side of the House vainly pressed yesterday. That doubt no longer exists. It has been made clear by the remarks of the noble Lord that the First Lord of the Treasury did not possess the information. But the First Lord has been anxious to repudiate any suggestion that he did not possess that information.

Lord G. HAMILTON: I did not say so.

Mr. ROBSON: The noble Lord scarcely remembers the purport of his own remarks. He said that not only did the First Lord not know, but he did not know himself.

Lord G. HAMILTON: The question put to my right hon. friend was whether certain negotiations were going on.

Several Hon. Members: No.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): Everyone knew that.

Lord G. HAMILTON: But the point which I endeavoured to make was that although we knew negotiations were going on, and going on satisfactorily, we did not know whether they were in such a state as would justify a statement to the House.

Mr. ROBSON: Several times during the course of his remarks the noble Lord, when he found himself interrupted, said, "At least I might be allowed to proceed without interruption," I, on the other hand, am grateful to the noble Lord for his interruption, because he has in reality confirmed our contention and almost repeated the very remark I was addressing to the House. He tells us now that, of course, the First Lord knew that negotiations were going on. What a remarkable piece of information! He thinks it worth while to get up and inform the House of Commons repeatedly and indignantly that the First Lord of the Treasury did know that negotiations were proceeding, but he goes on to add that the right hon. Gentleman did not know that these serious troubles had arrived at a settlement. It was with regard to that settlement the question was put. What we desired to know yesterday was whether this critical state of affairs had or had not come to an end. It had come to an end. The danger of war between two of the greatest Powers in the world had passed away, and the First Lord of the Treasury, who is Leader of this House, was not aware of it! The Secretary of State for India, who certainly would have been very materially concerned in his Department if the trouble had not passed away, told us, as an interesting piece of political geography, that he is next door to the Foreign Secretary, but the Foreign Secretary had not told him anything about it.

LORD G. HAMILTON made a remark which was inaudible in the gallery.

MR. ROBSON: The noble Lord sad that the Foreign Secretary had not told him he was going to make a statement. How am I to interpret that interruption? Does it mean that, although the Foreign Secretary did not tell him he was going to make a statement in the House of Lords, he acquainted him with the substance of the statement he was going to make? Does the noble Lord mean that? It is perfectly clear from what the noble Lord has told us that this has happened, whether he knows it or not—that an answer to a question of which notice had been given in the House of Lords, I believe some days previously—

LORD G. HAMILTON: No.

MR. ROBSON: The noble Lord should make inquiry upon that point.

LORD G. HAMILTON: I have.

MR. ROBSON: Let him repeat his inquiry. The question had been put down, the answer was settled in the Foreign Office, and the written reply was read out in the House of Lords. But the noble Lord did not know that until about half an hour ago. He does not know it now! An answer appears to have been settled by the proper officials next door to the noble Lord concerning a matter so vitally affecting the safety, peace, and prosperity of this Empire and the world, but the Minister, a colleague of the noble Lord, who settled that answer, sitting on the other side of the door, did not think it worth while to give any information to the noble Lord, or to the Leader of this House, or by any means whatever to the representatives of the English poeple concerning the determination of that trouble. That is the position the House of Commons is in. If the First Lord had possessed the information and withheld it, our complaint would have been that he had displayed gross disrespect, but in this case that gross disrespect has been displayed by the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary, which makes the question all the more serious. Is this to be treated as the usual course of business as far as this Cabinet is concerned? Whenever the Government have wars or when we have rumours of wars, is the House of Commons going to be treated in this way when it asks for information? This involves very gross disrespect of the House of Commons by the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary—a disrespect which every Member of this House, however humble, has a right to resent, and a disrespect which, I believe, will be noted and resented by the English people. That is the significance which will attach to the vote which we now proceed to give.

MR. CLANCY said he rose to put a question to the Secretary of State for India. The noble Lord spoke of a final telegram received from Russia, and he stated that no answer could be given until that final telegram had been received. He wished to know if the final telegram referred to by the Secretary of State for India was the long message from the Russian Ambassador of which Lord Lansdowne spoke in the House of Lords, and which he said had been received that morning, or was it some other final telegram of which he made no mention whatever. [Nationalist cries of "Answer, answer."]

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member has resumed his seat, and I have called upon another hon. Member. The hon. Member cannot compel an answer.

COLONEL PRYCE-JONES (Montgomery Boroughs) said he was a loyal supporter of the Government and should vote with them on this occasion, but he felt that all Members ought to feel much obliged to the Opposition for raising the question. He felt that this great Assembly had not been treated with respect in regard to this particular matter. He believed, with other Members, that the privileges of the representatives of the people of this country were being curtailed by degrees by the Government. It would not be difficult to refer to several small matters of late in which the consideration due to that House had not been shown by the Government, of which he was a supporter. He referred to the treatment they received at the opening of Parliament, and various other matters, and he was of opinion that they ought to be justly jealous of the great privileges of that House, because, after all, the House of Lords depended on the House of Commons, and the House of Commons depended on the people. [Ministerial cries of "Divide!"] It was all very well for his hon. friends to call "Divide," but he knew that he was voicing the opinion of scores of Members on the Ministerial side of the House when he gave a gentle hint to the Government that the business of the House and of the country must be conducted on business lines. If he did not think and feel assured that the Leader of the House and of the party to which he belonged had given them to understand that in future a repetition of what occurred the previous day should not occur again, out of respect for the House of Commons he should not have supported the Government on this matter. In this case he thought they were perfectly safe in following the Leader of the House of Commons.

MR. C. P. SCOTT (Lancashire, Leigh) said he thought the House was entitled to an answer to the question put by the hon. Member for North Dublin as to the reception of the official telegram from Russia by the Government. The matter was one which concerned the honour of the House of Commons, and they wanted to know whether the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs was in possession of that information. They were told that the Leader of the House and the Secretary of State for India did not know at 6.30 in the evening that a certain telegram had been received from Russia. The hon. Member who last spoke had, he thought, expressed better than some Members the true state of feeling on the Ministerial side of the House. It was not a small thing that the Leader of the House and the Secretary of State for India —the two Ministers concerned in this matter — should come down and tell them that they did not know at 6.30 facts known to the Secretary for Foreign Affairs in the course of the morning. [Opposition cheers and cries of "Divide, divide!"] They all knew that the statement was made by the Secretary for Foreign Affairs at half past four in the afternoon in the House of Lords, but no information was forthcoming an hour later in the House of Commons when a question was put. [Ministerial cries of "Divide!" and Nationalist cries of "Order, order!" and "Call in the police."] He believed it was contrary to all tradition and precedent in matters of this kind that when a statement was made in the House of Lords upon a question of policy no intimation was sent to the Leader of the House of Commons or to the Minister directly concerned in this House. In preceding Governments information had always been conveyed from the House of Lords to the representative in the House of Commons, with an intimation that a statement had been made. The Leader of the House, the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and the Secretary of State for India were in a blissful state of ignorance as to what had happened in the House of Lords on the previous day, and he thought that circumstance showed to what a position they were drifting in this matter and the kind of spirit of contempt in which the House of Commons and its Members were treated. The two Members of the Government in the other House did not even condescend to pursue the course which was usual in this matter of warning their own colleagues of what had been done. He thought they were entitled to have a plain answer to that question.

Dr. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.) said the right hon. Gentleman had declared that nothing would induce him to answer a question of that kind while negotiations were going on. They had from the Secretary for India a statement that neither he himself nor the noble Lord the Member for Rochester knew what was going on in the other House. He should like to know which of those statements they were to believe. He thought a very easy way out of the difficulty would be to send for the Colonial Secretary and get his version of the affair. It was high time that they made a stand against the contempt which was being shown for the House of Commons.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) I seem fated to be obliged to intrude again upon the time of the House. I had to intrude at some length last night, because on a previous occasion I asked a question and I got no answer from the Government. The result was that I had to take up some more time, and the same thing occurs again this afternoon. I asked the First Lord of the Treasury respectfully a question which was quite pertinent to this matter, and he did not condescend to give me a reply. Therefore, I am compelled to ask the same question again at this juncture. The question I asked was one which, had it been answered in a satisfactory way, would to a great extent have curtailed this debate, and saved greatly the time of the House. I asked the right hon. Gentleman whether he could assure hon. Members of this House that, for the future, the Foreign Secretary would make arrangements, when he had important information with regard to foreign affairs in his possession, that he would take the earliest opportunity of informing his representative in this House, the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, of that information, so that such information might simultaneously be conveyed to the House of Commons as well as to the House of Lords. I do not think there was anything unreasonable in making a request of that kind, and I think most hon. Members will agree that it is a question which at least deserves some consideration and some answer from the Leader of the House of Commons. I submit that not only in this matter of refraining from giving the House of Commons information which is given to the House of Lords, but also in the practice of Ministers in this House refusing to answer questions put to them, the rights and privileges of hon. Members of this House are being ignored and curtailed, and almost done away with. What is the cause of this trouble? The whole cause lies in the fact that the Foreign Minister—who is the most important Minister of the whole Cabinet—is not in this House along with the representatives of the people, but he is in the House of Lords.

*Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is not keeping to the definite question before the House.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: I am endeavouring to show that the adjournment has been properly moved, because Members of this House were denied information which was put before Members of the House of Lords, and I am endeavouring to show that that inconvenience was caused by reason of the fact that the Minister responsible for the case in question had not a seat in this House.

*Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member cannot upon this motion discuss the question as to whether the Foreign Secretary ought or ought not to have a seat in this House.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: I have not the slightest intention of disobeying your ruling, nor do I intend to discuss the broad question as to whether a great Minister of State should have a seat in the House of Commons or a seat in the House of Lords. I am confining myself to the fact that this information did not reach

Members of the House of Commons as soon as it ought to have reached them, because the Minister responsible to the country was in the House of Lords. What did take place at four o'clock yesterday afternoon was that there was an announcement made in the House of Lords of first-class importance, upon a matter in regard to which it was a question, perhaps, whether war would take place or not between this country and a great continental Power, and it was an announcement which the people of this country were anxiously looking forward to. At four o'clock that information was given to the House of Lords, and one and a half hours later the elected representatives of the people of this great country asked for that information, and were refused it by the First Lord of the Treasury. I have heard it stated in this debate that the noble Lord the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs was not asked directly for this information which was given in the House of Lords. But the First Lord of the Treasury was asked directly for this information, and he conveyed to the House of Commons the impression that he had not got that information. Therefore you have the extraordinary and unprecedented state of affairs that a private Member of this House, who happened to be in the House of Lords at four o'clock that afternoon, found himself in possession of information with regard to this grave matter, and when he came across the lobby from the Lords to the Commons he found that the information which he had got by the accident of being in the House of Lords was not in the possession of the Leader of this House and the occupants of the Treasury Bench. I say that that is an outrageous state of affairs, and to treat the House of Commons in that way is to make an attack upon the rights and privileges of the House of Commons. I say that the Members of this House are entitled to have at the very first opportunity—I will venture to say that they are entitled to have it before the Members of any other Assembly—the fullest information upon all these subjects. The hon. Member opposite, who is a supporter of the First Lord of the Treasury, has spoken in deprecation of the action of the Government in this matter, and he was met with loud cries of, "Divide, divide!" from Members sitting opposite. I hold that the view he expressed is the view which is largely held outside this House by supporters of the Government, and if Conservative opinion of the action of the Government is desired, I invite hon. Members to read the *Globe* and other Conservative newspapers, and there they will find leading articles condemning the action of the Government quite as strongly as the Leader of the Opposition and other Members of this House have condemned it. If we are not to have the responsible Member for Foreign Affairs in this House, the least that we can ask for, at any rate, is that he shall have as his representative in this House somebody to whom we can direct questions with some hope of them being replied to, instead of having a man like the noble Lord, who deliberately told us that he was only at liberty to say what the First Lord of the Treasury gave him leave to say. I say that if this kind of thing is to continue, a seat in the House of Commons will become a mockery to a man calling himself a representative of the Government, and I say here that I do not believe there is a single Member opposite who could face a public meeting of his constituents and justify before them the fact that the House of Lords was informed of this important matter, and that the very same day the House of Commons was refused the same information.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 168; Noes, 250. (Division List No. 88.)

AYES

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Ambrose, Robert
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Austin, Sir John
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bell, Richard
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Boyle, James
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.

Brigg, John
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carew, James Laurence
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Clancy, John Joseph
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Dunn, Sir William
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Sir F. H. (Maidstone)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt. Hn. Sir William
Hardie, J. Keir (Mert'r Tydvil
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kinloch, Sir John George Smyth
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Crae, George
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Morley, Rt Hon John (Montrose
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipper'ry Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Partington, Oswald
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Reid, Sir R. T. (Dumfries)
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Capt John (Forfarshire
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C. R. (N'thants
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings
Thompson, E. C. (Monaghan, N
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wodehouse, Hn Armine (Essex
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf.
Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
Mr. Causton.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Aird, Sir John
Allhusen, Augustus Hy. Eden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Col. Montagu
Brown, Alex. H. (Shropshire)
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin L.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasg'w
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)

Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fd. Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Man'r)
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward A.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lon.
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans
Gordon, Maj E.-(T'r Hamlets)
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, Walford D (Wednesbury
Greene, Sir E W (B'ry S Edm'nds
Grenfell, William Henry
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt. Hn Lord G (Mid'x
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th)
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath, James (Staffords. N.W.)
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Alexander
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hoare, Ed. Brodie (Hampstead
Hoare, Sir Samuel (Norwich)
Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.
Hope, J F (Sheffield, Brightside)
Horner, Frederick William
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Jebb, Sir Richd. Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kenyon, Hn. G. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W (Salop)
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lecky, Rt. Hn. William Edw. H
Lee, A. H. (Hants, Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt Hn Walter (Bristol, S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, R. J. (Portsmouth)
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, Rt Hn W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Killop, Jas. (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H E (Wigt'n
Maxwell, W J H (Dumfriesshire
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milward, Col. Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Montagu, Hon. J. S. (Hants.)
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, David J. (Waltham'w)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (Bute
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Gilbert
Peel, H. Wm. Robert Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Penn, John
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. Edw. J
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln
Sharpe, Wm. Edw. T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, E.
Smith, H C (North'mb Tyneside
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hn. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hn. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Uni.
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Lt.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H. (Shef'd
Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E.
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (Ta'nt'n
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (Notts.)
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R (Bath)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hn. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young, Commander (Berks, E.

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE (EXEMPTION FROM THE STANDING ORDER).

Motion made, and Question put, "That the Business of Supply, if under discussion at Twelve o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order, Sittings of the House."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 248; Noes, 165. (Division List No. 89.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Aird, Sir John
Allhusen, AugustusHry.Eden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Col. James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. AllenBenjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. SirM. H. (Bristol
Bhowanaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Col. Montagu
Brown, Alex. H. (Shropshire)
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir J. Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin EdwardBainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, H. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph C.
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred. D.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, SirWilliamTheodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson, Rt. HnSirJ. (Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, SirRobertPenrose-
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward A.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H (CityofLond.
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans)
Gordon, Maj. E. (T'rHamlets)
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. SirJohnEldon
Goschen, Hon. GeorgeJoachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, WalfordD. (Wednesb'ry
Greene, SirEW(B'rySEdm'nds
Grenfell, William Henry
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, RtHnLordG(M'dd'x
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. RobertWm.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, FLeverton(Tynemouth
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur H. (Hanley)
Heath, James(Staffords, N.W.
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Alexander
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hoare, EdwBrodie(Hampstead
Hoare, Sir Samuel (Norwich)
Hobhouse, Henry(Somerset, E.
Hope, J. F (Sheffield, Brightside
Horner, Frederick William
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Hozier, Hn. JamesHenryCecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel, CaptainHerbertMerton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lecky, Rt. Hon. Wm. Ed. H.
Lee, CaptA H(Hants. Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, FrederickN. S.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, RtHnWalter(Bristol, S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis(Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsm'th)
Lyttelton, Hon Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Killop, Jas. (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, RtHnSirHE(Wigton
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants.)
More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
Morgan, Dav. J. (Walthamst'w
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Col. Wyndham(Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Gilbert
Peel, Hon. Wm. Robert W.
Pemberton, John S. G.
Penn, John
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ridley, S. Forde(BethnalGreen
Robertson, Herbert(Hackney)
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford

Samuel, Harry S.(Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. Edw. J
Seely, CharlesHilton(Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, AbelH.(Hertford, East)
Smith, HC(North'mbTyneside
Smith, JamesParker(Lanarks.
Stanley, HonArthur(Ormskirk
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, SirMarkJ.M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'dUni.
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Lt.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. SirCEH.(Sheffield
Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E.
Wason, JohnCathcart (Orkney)
Welby, Lt.-Col. A.C.E.(T'unt'n
Welby, Sir C. G. E. (Notts.)
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John L.
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William(Cork, N.E.
Allan, William (Gateshead)
Ambrose, Robert
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bell, Richard
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Boyle, James
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brigg, John
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carew, James Laurence
Carvill, PatrickGeo. Hamilton
Causton, Richard Knight
Clancy, John Joseph
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J
Daly, James
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dewar, John A.(Inverness-sh.
Dilke, Rt. Hon Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Dunn, Sir William
Ellis, John Edward
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Sir F. H. (Maidstone)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, RtHnHerbertJohn
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.
Hardie, J. Keir(MerthyrTydvil
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. CharlesSeale-
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kinloch, Sir John G. Smyth
Kitson, Sir James
Lambert, George
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Crae, George
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Markham, Arthur Basil
Morgan, J. L. (Carmarthen)
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Morley, Rt. Hn. J. (Montrose)
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Moss, Samuel
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal(Tipper'ryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James(Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James(Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Partington, Oswald
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Reid, SirR.Threshie(Dumfries
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, CaptJohn(Forfarshire
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt. Hn. CR(Northants
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings
Thompson, E. C. (Monaghan, N
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.

Weir, James Galloway	Wodehouse, Hn. Armine (Essex	TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Emmott and Mr. Wallace.
White, Luke (York, E. R.)	Young, Samuel (Cavan, East)	
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer	Yoxall, James Henry	

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE (SATURDAY).

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I beg to move the motion standing in my name. It is not of a very cheerful character, but the necessity for it must be obvious to everybody who has followed the statements I have made from time to time as to the position of Supply. As the House is well aware, we must complete Supply by the end of the week in order to deal with the Report of Supply on Monday, and bring in then the Appropriation Bill and read it a first time, so that we may be able to obey the law. I regret the additional strain which is placed on hon. Members, but I think they will readily adopt the course which I now propose.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do meet to-morrow for the business of Supply unless Votes A and 1 in the Navy Estimates and the Excess Votes for Civil Services and Revenue Departments, 1899–1900, are previously disposed of."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I have an Amendment to this resolution, and have no hesitation in rising to move it at once, because it will not in any way interfere with the general discussion. The Amendment which I propose to submit is, "To omit all the words of the resolution from the word 'Supply,' in line 2, to the end of the resolution," so as to make it read, "That this House do meet to-morrow for the business of Supply." I object to the form of this resolution. To say the least of it, it is most unusual, and so far as my memory carries me, unprecedented. When, in the past, the Leader of the House has decided to ask for a Saturday sitting, he has always put the resolution on the Paper, asking for it categorically; but this resolution is in the nature of a menace, saying, "Unless you grant us certain Supply"—we are even informed at what hour of the night we must grant it—"you must have a Saturday sitting." I object to this irregular system of doing the business of the House of Commons, and of carrying it on under threats and continual pressure. The Leader of the House is armed with great powers—he has just now suspended the Twelve o'clock Rule—great powers of closure, but the object of this resolution is to get a new system of closure in spite of the Chairman. It is a device, a new patent dodge, by which the Government seek to force Supply through the House of Commons, and to add to their armoury, already pretty well stocked, of coercive measures. Although my colleagues have been frequently accused of an intention to obstruct the business of the nation, they are prepared to come down on Saturday to do that business. I say it is the First Lord of the Treasury who is now obstructing the business of the nation, when he declares in a melancholy manner at the Table that he moves this resolution in order to force the House of Commons to scamp the work of Supply to-night. The Leader of the House ought to be prepared to come down manfully on Saturday to finish this business of Supply. For my part, I think it would be much better, both from the point of view of doing the business promptly and properly, and for the convenience of hon. Members, that we should have a Saturday sitting rather than sit up to-night all night. Many of us have suffered already from the perpetual late sittings during the past fortnight. I maintain that the continual recurrence of these late sittings is the result of the mismanagement of the business of the House. No Leader of the House has ever had such power as the right hon. Gentleman, but the result is that no Leader during my twenty years experience has been responsible for such a procession and succession of late sittings at this early period of the session. It comes to this, that the more power we give to the Leader of the House the longer he keeps us to the small hours of the morning. I say that such a condition of things is a reproach to him, and shows that he does not devote sufficient attention to carrying out his responsible duties in the arrangement of the business of the House. The First Lord of the Treasury says that he has already explained the condition of Supply and the necessities of the case; but who created all these necessities? The condition of Supply arises from the fact of the late meeting of Parliament and the short time devoted to Supply. Such a continuous amount of Supply is absolutely unprecedented and unparalleled in the history of the House of Commons, and the unhappy position that has arisen is entirely due to the Leader of the House and not to the action of the House itself. It is a hard thing that we should be subjected to the fatigue of sitting up till six o'clock in the morning, and then be told it is brought about by some superior power over which the First Lord of the Treasury has no control. I am of opinion that the old procedure should be adhered to, and if we are to have a Saturday sitting it should be categorically stated, and should not be held as a threat over our heads.

Amendment proposed, to leave out all the words after the word "Supply," in line 2, to the end of the Question.—(*Mr. Dillon.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The motion in its present form was put down necessarily before I knew we were going to have this discussion, which has occupied three hours of our time. It is now quite clear that a Saturday sitting will be absolutely necessary, and therefore I assent to the Amendment.

MR. DILLON: I am much obliged to the right hon. Gentleman.

*MR. HERBERT LEWIS: Upon a point of order, Sir, I was going to move as an Amendment to the Amendment that the sitting should commence at three instead of at twelve o'clock, having regard to the late hour at which the present sitting may terminate.

*MR. SPEAKER: That hardly arises upon this question.

Amendment agreed to.

*MR. HERBERT LEWIS appealed to the right hon. Gentleman as to whether it would not be better to commence the Saturday sitting at three o'clock. Right hon. Gentlemen and hon. Gentlemen might have to remain in the House till six o'clock in the morning, and under those circumstances would it not be more reasonable to make the sitting commence at three, in order that they might have some rest before commencing their labours on the morrow?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It is not possible to make any distinction between the hours for meeting to-morrow and the hour for meeting on a Wednesday, and it would be far preferable to meet at noon than at three o'clock in any case.

MR. KEARLEY (Devonport) pointed out that if the Government were successful in getting Vote A and Vote 1 that would take away every opportunity of continuing the general discussion upon the Votes. As some arrangement had been made to continue the general discussion upon Army Estimates, would the right hon. Gentleman give the Navy Estimates similar consideration?

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: With regard to the Army Estimates, which have been referred to, when the arrangement was made I happened, unfortunately, to be absent. The Government got the two first Votes upon the condition that a resolution was put down on some later date which would give an opportunity for general discussion on those particular Votes; besides that I trust there will be an opportunity given for some discussion on the ordinary Estimates—a general discussion of more detail and of a less restricted kind. If there is a resolution, discussion must be confined to the matters contained in the resolution. Now, there has been no opportunity for a free discussion such as we usually have on Supply, with the Speaker in the Chair, on general Army matters. There are many Members of the House who no doubt consider it necessary, or at least extremely desirable, that there should be a full opportunity of discussing these matters. Will the right hon. Gentleman set aside one of the Votes upon which greater latitude would be allowed for discussion than is usual in Supply? It is a thing often done, and I think a similar practice ought to be followed with regard to the Navy Votes.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY (Yorkshire, Shipley) said, with regard to the Navy Votes, a considerable number of Members desired to discuss the Navy Votes, and it would be inconvenient if the discussion was restricted.

MR. BLAKE (Longford, S.) said that the reason why the right hon. Gentleman had assented to the motion of the hon. Member for East Mayo was that he merely desired to take these two Votes. Was that the intention of the right hon. Gentleman? Was he right in assuming that there was no intention of conducting any other business of Supply beyond Vote A and Vote 1?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The only business we shall ask the House to deal with to-morrow is the discussion affecting Vote A and Vote 1 and the Excess Vote. Committee of Ways and Means is a formal matter, necessary for the introduction of the Appropriation Bill. With regard to the observations which fell from the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition, the arrangement made with regard to the Army Votes was this. We felt that the case brought forward by my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War and the speech which embodied those views foreshadowed what might be called a constructive scheme of Army reform, and we thought to confine that discussion within the fixed and rigid limits of the twenty-three days allotted to Supply would be putting a great strain upon the Supply rule. We thought that we ought to bring forward a subsequent motion embodying the main ideas of my hon. friend's scheme, which would leave open a full opportunity for dealing with the Army Estimates. I hope those opportunities will not be pressed beyond a certain point—not in the interests of the Government, but in the interests of Supply. Then I am asked whether I will not apply the same principle to the Navy Vote. I do not think I could do that to the same extent, because the Votes do not profess to embody any considerable scheme of naval reform.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY pointed out that there were many matters of general interest which could not be discussed at the late hours available, and as the granting of Vote A and Vote 1 would shut out in the future the whole discussion on those matters, he hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would see his way to give some opportunity for a full discussion at a later date.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: My desire is that we should do our best to give every opportunity for the discussion of the ordinary Votes. I will do my best, but it must rest with the Chairman to a very great extent. So far as in me lies I will do the best I can.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee) suggested that, having regard to the necessity of Supply being obtained by the 31st March, only the Money Vote should be taken—Vote 1. If they did that they could bring up Vote A upon another occasion. He understood that if the Government obtained the money on Vote 1 the law would be complied with, and, if that was so, he did not see why Vote A could not be kept back for general discussion.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) said he did not think that Vote A could be kept back in that way, because Vote A was the Vote for the men, and the Vote for the men only extended to the end of the financial year.

Main question, as amended, put, and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do meet to-morrow for the Business of Supply.

NEW BILLS.

COUNTY JUSTICES' CLERKS.

Bill to prohibit Clerks to Petty Sessional Divisions of Counties from undertaking prosecutions of persons committed for trial by the Justices of such Petty Sessional Divisions, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Lloyd Morgan, Mr.

Abel Thomas, Mr. Lawson Walton, Mr. Brynmor Jones, and Mr. Wallace.

COUNTY JUSTICES' CLERKS BILL.

"To prohibit Clerks to Petty Sessional Divisions of Counties from undertaking prosecutions of persons committed for trial by the Justices of such Petty Sessional Divisions," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 17th April, and to be printed. [Bill 113.]

AGED PENSIONERS.

Bill to provide Pensions for aged deserving poor, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Goulding, Mr. John Hutton, Mr. Bousfield, Mr. Strutt, Mr. J. W. Wilson, Mr. Raymond-Greene, Mr. Morrison, Mr. Churchill, Mr. Carlile, and Colonel Williams.

AGED PENSIONERS BILL.

"To provide Pensions for aged deserving poor," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 18th April, and to be printed. [Bill 114.]

LOCAL AUTHORITIES OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION.

Bill to extend the provisions of the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, 1896, ordered to be brought in by Major Rasch, Mr. Sinclair, and Mr. Galloway.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION BILL.

"To extend the provisions of the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, 1896," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday, 1st April, and to be printed. [Bill 115.]

REGISTRATION OF FIRMS.

Bill for the registration of Firms and Persons carrying on business under Trade Names, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Emmott, Mr. Heath, Sir Alfred Hickman, Mr. Holland, Mr. Oldroyd, and Mr. Walter Palmer.

REGISTRATION OF FIRMS BILL.

"For the registration of Firms and Persons carrying on business under Trade Names," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 8th May, and to be printed. [Bill 116.]

SUPPLY (NAVY ESTIMATES).

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Main Question [21st March], "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair."

Question again proposed.

Debate resumed.

Sir FORTESCUE FLANNERY: I think both the First Lord of the Admiralty and the Secretary to the Navy deserve great credit for their courage in asking the Boilers Committee for a Report which would enable them to guide the policy of the Navy upon the important question of boilers in the immediate future, but at the same time I consider that in the comprehensive statement which he made to the House the hon. Gentleman the Secretary to the Admiralty omitted any reference to several important matters. In dealing with the question of construction he omitted to tell the House what the result of our construction was in comparison with the navies of the world. What the country really desires to know is, is our Navy strong enough, and how does it compare with the navies of other great Powers? The country has had an awakening with regard to Army reform. We have seen the decay of a great soldier who was sadly unwilling, and in some degree unable, to perform his duties. The War Office had concealed deficiencies which did not become known until recently, but which have had a disheartening effect upon the country, and people are now asking themselves whether similar weakness exists in the Navy, or whether the Navy is really equal to all the demands which could be made upon it. By comparison this country can really afford to play with the Army, because the Navy is of far more vital interest than the Army can be said to be. We talk of the Navy as being the first line of defence, because if it were not possible to patrol the seas and keep them open for our commerce, for the carrying of our food, we should be starved into submission without a shot being fired. The Government have now been in charge of the Navy for six years, and they ought to know whether the comparison between the British and foreign navies is such as to enable them to pledge themselves that the Navy is sufficient for all purposes.

The hon. Member for Devonport said that the programme of construction was only a programme after all, and then he went on to speak of the five submarine vessels, and mentioned that they were ordered in 1900, even before the House sanctioned the building of submarine boats at all. But what were the Government to do? If they bring in a programme they are attacked, and if they take time by the forelock they are criticised for giving orders which were not sanctioned by Parliament. It seems to me that in this particular the Admiralty were completely justified in the action they took. Everybody remembers the outcry made as to the Admiralty getting behindhand in connection with submarine boats, which was so great and so general that the Admiralty had no alternative but to resort to their own experiments. Personally I do not think that submarine vessels would have any appreciable effect in naval warfare, but information as to their likelihood of being valuable had to be obtained, and such information should be obtained first hand. Contrasts have been drawn between the naval expenditure of this country at this time and the Naval expenditure of years ago. Seven years ago this country spent £14,000,000 on the Navy; the Estimates now amount to £33,000,000, and the question has been asked where is this expenditure to stop—is there to be no limit? If there is one truth which ought to be accepted by the House, it is that the Navy is above all parties and above politics, and if £33,000,000 is too great an expenditure I trust that before the debate draws to a conclusion some statement will be made as to what the Government consider to be reasonable and sufficient provision for naval defence. There is a limit, and I think that limit is what is sufficient for the defence of the country without any doubt whatever. This matter of naval defence is vital, and that is the only limit which the country will recognise as in any way reasonable.

In 1889 the noble Lord the present Secretary of State for India stated that the Navy should be at least equal to any two other navies, and the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition used these memorable words, which I hope are binding on his follower the late Civil Lord of the Admiralty—

> "I accept the doctrine of the standard of supremacy, that our Fleet should equal any two other fleets in the world."

There you have a binding agreement made in 1889 between both sides of the House, which has been accepted as the standard ever since. Now, is it a fact that our Fleet is equal to any two other fleets in the world? At the present time we have battleships in number sixty-six, built or building, and within measurable distance of completion. France has forty battleships under similar circumstances; Russia has twenty-nine; and Germany has also twenty-nine. Thus, you see, if you take the two nations which together would produce the largest number of battleships, you have sixty-nine which may be arrayed against us, and we have sixty-six to compete with them. That is, at least, not an equality in our Navy. When one remembers the special character of the duty of our Fleet—the necessity for blockading the enemy's ports, and the necessity for keeping the sea clear for our food supply and our commerce—we see clearly enough that there is not an equality as yet, even supposing the three battleships my right hon. friend has promised to be added to the programme were completed, which they cannot be within at least three years. It seems to me that the programme of battleships is not sufficient. It seems to me that instead of proposing three battleships the hon. Gentleman would have been wiser, and would have been more in proportion to the comparison with other fleets on the basis of this agreed standard between both sides of the House eleven years ago, if he had proposed ten additional battleships. It is true that there are twenty cruisers under construction.

and that the Admiralty propose to add eight in the new programme, but the cruisers can never take the place of battleships. We know that both in the Mediterranean squadron and elsewhere there is even at the present time a deficiency of cruisers. It is a matter of great satisfaction to the House to believe that there is no longer the difficulty as regards new construction and proceeding with the ships sanctioned in this House which until recently existed. It is a satisfaction also to know that the statement of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Hallam Division as to armour-plate has been fully justified. That statement was that if a reasonable continuity of orders were promised by the Admiralty there would be a great increase in the appliances for producing armour-plate in Sheffield. We are told in the printed statement of the First Lord that five makers have laid down appliances, and that there should be in the near future no difficulty in regard to the production of armour plate. Another point of great importance in relation to this question of pushing on ships and saving delay in naval construction is the appointment of a Committee to inquire into the causes of the delay in carrying out the contracts. That Committee, I believe, is an exceedingly wise step. My hon. friend the Member for Devonport, whom I am glad to see in his place, objected, I think, to that Committee on the ground, if I recollect rightly, that the Admiralty was devolving much of its responsibility on the Committee. Well, it seems to me that if you have the possibility of getting the services of men like Sir Thomas Sutherland and the hon. Member for Maidstone, who have had experience in the ordering of ships and of their delivery in good time, the Admiralty are wise to take advantage of their knowledge and of their experience in the mercantile marine.

Mr. KEARLEY: I objected on the ground that the Admiralty have plenty of experience. They have a body of men of great experience, and they ought not to call upon outsiders to help them.

Sir FORTESCUE FLANNERY: Unfortunately it is the case that some outsiders are better informed. If the Admiralty are wise enough to accept teaching in this instance, as they have not done in regard to the Belleville boilers, then the House should approve and applaud and not condemn them. May I venture to make a suggestion to my hon. friend the Secretary to the Admiralty, and that is that the overseers whose duty it is, on behalf of the Admiralty, to superintend the building of ships have not had a sufficient amount of responsibility and freedom left to them. Let me explain this to my hon. friend. An overseer is always a practical shipbuilder. He is taken out of a dockyard and sent by the Admiralty to reside day by day and hour by hour at the shipyard where the ships are being built by contract. He has not only to examine the work as it proceeds, but he has also to report to the Admiralty and get letters back. The result is that every little detail in the ship has to be dealt with, not as it might be, and not as it is in the mercantile service, on the spot by a responsible officer, but by Whitehall through the medium of the higher officials. The aggregate result is that a vessel built by contract under this system costs more and occupies much longer time than would be necessary under a wiser system. We have heard much of decentralisation as regards the Army. Let me appeal to my hon. friend to initiate, as one reform in his administration of the Admiralty, the decentralisation of the overseeing staff, so as to facilitate the quick and economical execution of contracts for the building of ships.

There are several features in the statement of the First Lord and in the speech of my hon. friend to which I should like to refer. The Fleet Reserve, as my hon. friend the Member for Devonport said, is likely to prosper because of the bounty, pension, and other attractions. It is a leaf taken, if I may say so, out of the book of the recent Army reform proposals—that is to say, the time-expired men or the veterans are to be utilised and secured for the future service by enrolling them in a new section of the Navy List, which will enable them to have the advantages of civil life, and at the same time be under the knowledge, and in a large degree under the care, of the Admiralty. Therefore I think that this Fleet Reserve is a matter of congratulation to the country, and that it will, as the hon. Member the Secretary to the Admiralty anticipates, be a success in raising the 15,000 men he hopes to obtain. On the question of the Naval Reserve there is a matter which I think calls for some explanation on the part of my hon. friend. It is as regards the number of executive officers that have been enrolled in the Naval Reserve. There are 1,500 executive officers in the Naval Reserve and 330 qualified candidates who are applicants for appointments. There are 400 engineer officers in the Reserve and only fifteen candidates who are stated to be seeking appointments. What do these figures prove? As a matter of fact, and in this I believe the hon. Member for Gateshead will bear me out, there are more engineers in the mercantile marine than deck officers. Notwithstanding that there is a large field from which to draw supplies here, we have this dearth of applicants in the Navy when there are more engineers to draw from than there are deck officers. That is something I will speak about on another occasion—the unfortunate position of and the injustice done to the engineers of the Navy. I would make as one small suggestion, in the first instance, to my hon. friend that he should secure every superintending engineer in the mercantile service as a recruiting officer for his reserve engineers by re-establishing the abolished rank of honorary chief engineer, which was mainly for the purpose of giving commissions to the engineers of the great steamship companies. It was unfortunately abolished, for no reason that I can explain. I believe it will be of considerable assistance to my hon. friend in increasing this beggarly supply of fifteen aspirants for commissions in the engineer rank of the Naval Reserve.

I come now to the matter referred to by the hon. Member for Dundee—the Royal Naval Reserve on merchant cruisers. My hon. friend referred to the fact that the Vote for the expenses of these cruisers has disappeared. The explanation given in the statement of the First Lord is one which no one can deny is a satisfactory explanation so far as it goes. There are forty-eight of the finest ships in the mercantile marine secured to the Admiralty at a comparatively small cost—that is to say, the call of these ships is secured. But is that all the organisation we could have? Is there not something more complete than that? Not long ago I was in a foreign dockyard—I dare not say which dockyard—and I saw something that showed me the extremity of organisation and preparation that these foreign navies have established. There was a row of houses and over the front door of each house, was the name of a ship. Anyone who had permission to enter that front door would find in the house all the fittings down to the smallest details required for the ship whose name was painted up outside, so that in the event of an emergency they had only to summon the particular vessel, and, without any fuss or bother, or risk, the fittings would be brought out from the house. In a few hours the vessel might be sailing away a fully armed cruiser. Has any such arrangement been made or attempted in regard to these forty-eight steamers of the mercantile marine which my hon. friend referred to in his speech? I hope he will tell us when he comes to reply.

I come now to the question my hon. friend the late Civil Lord referred to in the commencement of his speech, which I regard, and which I think this House regards, as the most sensational question relating to the Navy that has arisen for many years. The situation has with all its difficulties some compensating advantages, because it has served to arouse the attention of the country to the Navy and its needs—a matter which has not been easy, having regard to the sense of security on the part of the people generally. I refer to the question which is deservedly associated with the name of my hon friend the Member for Gateshead—the boiler question. The boilers of a ship are apt to be forgotten by the ordinary observer. They are as concealed from observation as the heart and the lungs of a strong man, but they have exactly the same relation to the power, mobility, and usefulness, to the very life of the ship, as the heart and lungs have to the strength of the man. What is the use of a muscular arm if there be no power behind it? What is the use of the strongest ship with the best armour and the most powerful guns if she has not absolutely reliable motive power? Therefore the boilers, though unseen, though until recently almost a bye-word, are, after all, more essential to the well-being and efficiency of a ship of war than any other part which is not associated with her propulsion and her mobility.

Let me say a few words on the history of this question from my own standpoint. It is quite twenty years ago that a Boiler Committee was appointed for the purpose of inquiring into the possibility of the improvement of the boilers in Her Majesty's ships, and that Committee advised that two small ships should be fitted with boilers of this new type—a type which had been tried and found wanting, which was despised and rejected in the Mercantile Service, not in one line of steamers, but in many. At that time my hon. friend the Member for Dundee was in office as Civil Lord of the Admiralty, and he accepted the suggestion of the then Boiler Committee. At that time also there was a very powerful cruiser which had aroused an enormous amount of attention in this country because she had been prepared by Russia, and because it was said she was capable of steaming all round the world without the necessity of coaling at any coaling station—a most terrible power if it could be obtained. Our Admiralty set to work to give an answer in a friendly way to this enormous cruiser, and the answer was to be found in two vessels—the "Powerful" and the "Terrible," the largest cruisers which, up to that date, had ever been attempted. The suggestion of the Boiler Committee was that two little steamers should be fitted for experiment, but that was enlarged by the Admiralty to the fitting of these large cruisers with these new experimental boilers. The hon. Member last night challenged my hon. friend the Secretary to the Admiralty to say what was the opinion of the technical advisers of the Admiralty now upon this question. I do not believe my hon. friend thought of sheltering himself behind the technical advisers, but it would have been more chivalrous and more fair if he had boldly said the experiment made by him was made after full determination by the then Board of Admiralty, and was not made on mere technical advice. But what happened after the boilers were fitted into these large cruisers? Was there a trial? Yes, there was a trial of six hours. Was there another trial? Yes, there was one of twelve hours. Finally there was a long trial of thirty hours. After thirty hours steaming these vessels were pronounced so successful as regards their boilers that the whole of the Navy afterwards was to be fitted with this new type of boiler. Could folly ever go further? Could the desire for scientific experiment ever more thoroughly carry the people away than was the case in this instance? What did we find afterwards? The hon. Member for Dundee in his speech last night referred to the fact that the hon. Member for Gateshead was not supported five years ago in the pressure which he brought on the Admiralty to at least try these boilers in any one of their ships for endurance by a voyage at full speed before they committed the Navy to the enormous expenditure of fitting the ships with boilers which might not be reliable. Refusal after refusal was made. Questions were answered at the time, and it was denied that there was any necessity for sending any one of the ships on a single passage across the Atlantic at full power for the purpose of testing the endurance of the boilers. Then came all that humiliating series of breakdowns which my hon. friend has already referred to. We had the "Europa" going out to Australia for the purpose of bringing troops from that country to South Africa. We found that she had to come home at, I do not know how slow a speed, because she was unfit to perform the duty. We had the "Hermes" towed into Esquimault like a derelict ship on her first voyage. We had other cases, and it was only after a threat to divide this House that the Admiralty allowed the Committee, of whose Report we have recently heard so much, to be formed. The Report reflects credit on the Members of the Committee, on the First Lord of the Admiralty, and on my hon. friend for their boldness in admitting all the mistakes. This Committee consisted of mercantile engineers. At its head was Mr. Bain, the superintending engineer of the Cunard Company, whose steamers pass with the regularity of clockwork from Liverpool to New York. This Committee, with all these men of capacity upon it, has given a Report within six months of a definite chara ter in some respects, although naturally it does not in other respects. The recommendation of the Committee is precise in one regard, and that is that the Belleville boilers should not continue to be fitted in any vessels on which too much progress has not been made. It means the condemnation of a very large amount of property besides boilers, representing more than a million of money; and it means the condemnation of the boilers themselves, which may reasonably be estimated to have cost at least £3,000,000 more. Therefore we have this fact, that an amount of money corresponding to the cost of three battleships has been lost over this experiment. But that is nothing compared with the fact that vessels already fitted, costing many, many more millions than the cost of the boilers themselves, are crippled and rendered useless, by comparison, for the defence of the country.

Why am I railing against the Admiralty in this way? Is it to congratulate myself after the manner of the prophet of evil who rejoices in saying, "I told you so"? No, Sir, it is not. I desire to bring home to the House and the country the fact that some action should be taken immediately to restore to these ships the mobility and perfection of which they have been robbed, and in that view I venture to offer a suggestion which I hope will receive the earnest consideration of the new Board of Admiralty—namely, that the vessels which are already fitted with these condemned boilers should, at the earliest possible date, be fitted with boilers of the old cylindrical type, pending the completion by the Boiler Committee of the investigations they are making, and which must necessarily occupy a considerable amount of time. Let me for a moment refer to two quotations from the Interim Report. On page six, these words occur—

> "The Committee are of opinion that the advantages . . . . are so great . . . . that, *provided a satisfactory type of water tube boiler be adopted*——"

but I search in vain throughout the Report for any statement as to what is a satisfactory type. The fact is the Committee do not know, and no engineer knows, what is a satisfactory type of water-tube boiler. In the course of my professional experience I have had opportunities of examining all of them, and I respectfully agree with the Committee that no one knows at the present time what is a satisfactory type, notwithstanding the great military advantages which they undoubtedly possess. The Committee recommend that two vessels of a comparatively small size should be fitted with water-tube boilers for the purpose of experiments, and no doubt that is a wise recommendation. But until those experiments are made and the Committee have arrived at what they regard as a satisfactory water-tube boiler, the Admiralty are in the position of not knowing what to do—at least, they ought not to know what to do if they are going to act upon the suggestions of the Committee—and they dare not pause in naval construction, as we are already too far behindhand. What, therefore, is the course they will adopt? Will they go on fitting vessels with these water-tube boilers? Or will they reconcile themselves to the admitted loss of speed consequent upon the increased weight of the old type of boilers, by gaining, at any rate, their safety and security? I venture to say that the difficulty is much less than at first sight may seem to be the case. There are many people who are able to take orders for cylindrical boilers at the present time, and if the Admiralty will go about the matter in a systematic businesslike way, as any large steamship company would do, the hon. Gentleman will find the difficulty not nearly so great as might be anticipated, and he will have the satisfaction within a year or a little over of having restored to many of the vessels now under condemnation the proper mobility and completeness of high speed which was intended in their original design.

I shall make reference, only for a moment, to a question which has already had sympathetic treatment in a general way by my hon. friend—namely, the question of engineers in the Navy. The main question in a sentence is this: The engineer, whilst having the duty of maintaining discipline and order in one-third of the ship's company, has no authority over his men. He has as much and as little authority as the doctor, the paymaster, or the chaplain. Yet that officer, with authority over executive rank, has done good service both ashore and afloat. At Ladysmith an engineer officer did good work, and in the expedition for the relief of the Embassies at Peking an engineer officer, when the marine artillery officer was killed, took charge of the men and acted so well that his name was mentioned in despatches. I venture to claim that the time has now come when, as a matter not merely of justice, but of wisdom and prudence in the interests of the Navy, engineers should have the proper rank and authority of Engineer Officers. I see the right hon. Member for South Antrim in his place. Among the great services he rendered at the Admiralty there is one which stands out very prominently in my mind. He was a member of a Committee which consisted of himself, Prince Louis of Battenberg, and, I think, Admiral Douglas, which inquired into the question of the proper pay of engineers in the Fleet, and one of the recommendations of the Committee was that engineers should have the executive rank.

MR. MACARTNEY (Antrim, S.): I do not like to interrupt my hon. friend, but there is no foundation whatever for saying that the Committee made any recommendation in the direction he has just stated.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY: Perhaps my right hon. friend before this debate closes will state, as far as official limitations will allow, what he regards as a wise course in this matter. At all events, it is generally understood throughout the engineering service in the country that that recommendation was made by the Committee. I thank the House for having listened to me, and my only excuse for trespassing upon its indulgence at such length is that the subject is of vast and vital interest to the country.

*MR. BLACK (Banffshire): One of the features which the present war has brought out prominently is the importance in the Army of what is known as the human element. It appears from our experience in the South African War that we shall in future warfare have to rely more on the initiative of the rank and file. That this feature is not confined to the Army alone has been shown by the prominence given in this debate to the same element in the Navy. The hon. and gallant Member for Great Yarmouth frequently made reference to the necessity of paying particular attention to the human element.

The next matter which has been brought very largely under our notice in these debates, more particularly by the right hon. Member for Dundee, is the necessity, before very long, of increasing the *personnel* of the Navy as regards numbers. The large shipbuilding programme now being undertaken implies that before many years are over we shall have to look forward to a very large increase in the manning of the Navy. This brings one to the consideration as to whether it is not time that the Admiralty should begin to look for fresh recruiting grounds for the Navy. It is a matter of common knowledge that as things at present stand the Navy is recruited almost entirely from one portion of these islands—namely, the southern or south-western portion. Now, that recruiting ground is limited both as regards numbers and quality, and it is of the utmost importance, in view of this human element, that the Navy should present a microcosm of the nation in the sense of having in its ranks men recruited from all parts of the country. This impels me to call attention to the magnificent recruiting ground in the north-west and north-east of Scotland. I believe that not more than 3 or 4 per cent. of the men in the Navy come from Scotland, and this is all the more remarkable when one considers that in Scotland and certain parts of Ireland we are face to face with a state of things which calls for the Congested Districts Board to deal with. How much better would it be if, instead of introducing doubtful emigration schemes, we were able to induce the admirable material which exists there to enter the Navy. I suppose the hon. Gentleman opposite will be ready to admit that it is desirable that men from all parts of the country should, if possible, be induced to enter the Navy. I think that in itself is an object worthy of being pursued. Not only have we to deal with the people of these islands, but the question has been ventilated more than once in the course of this debate that we shall probably have to look to the colonies in the future for some contribution to our Navy in the shape of money, and I think we may look forward also to their contributing in the shape of men. It is desirable that in this manner also the colonies should also contribute.

If that be an object desirable in itself, the question arises, How is it to be attained? We are frequently directed to the Navy as an example for the Army, but here I would venture to direct the attention of the Admiralty to the Army as presenting them, to some extent, with a model by which they might proceed to attract recruits for the Navy. What would the Army have been to-day if it had been recruited upon the same principle as the Navy? Suppose the Army had been recruited almost solely, as is the case with the Navy, from within districts of England. We should then have found that in Scotland and Ireland there would have been some reluctance to join the Army, and we should not have had those magnificent Scotch and Irish regiments who have distinguished themselves so much both in the present and past campaigns. May I suggest to the Admiralty that they might apply their minds to the idea of having Scotch, Irish, and colonial ships? I do not suppose that this idea is a new one. The Admiralty has already endeavoured so far to carry it into effect by stationing training ships all over these islands, but these do not serve the same purpose, because it is well known that as soon as men have passed through the training ships they will be scattered over all the other ships in the Navy, and they will not have the opportunity of consorting with their compatriots. In many of those recruiting districts to which I have referred the national or clan feeling is very strong, and it will be a long time before it dies out. This view may not commend itself to hon. Members representing other parts of these islands, but it is a fact, and it is a factor to be dealt with. Surely it would be possible to have in the Channel Fleet one Scotch ship and perhaps another Scotch ship in the Mediterranean. On the Pacific Station we might have one colonial ship, recruited from Australia and Canada, and in that way we might encourage recruiting from those places.

An incidental advantage that would accrue from this is the one which was alluded to from the Benches below the gangway in the discussion upon the first Amendment yesterday—namely, that it would in large measure solve the religious difficulty, which no doubt is a pressing one. I think the Secretary to the Admiralty felt that the Irish Catholics had a grievance which he was willing to endeavour to redress as far as he could. This scheme of territorialising would very soon redress this grievance. I believe it is the fact, and it is in accordance with the common experience of humanity that clergymen, not only in Ireland, but in Scotland, do not encourage the young men of their districts to join the Navy. I believe that is a fact, and it is in a manner justified, because the clergymen are there to preserve the youth under their charge in that religion in which they are brought up. So that the clergymen in doing this are only doing their duty. The clergy in Scotland and Ireland do not encourage recruiting for the Navy, but if we had this territorial scheme we should get rid of that difficulty, and I do not doubt that recruits would flow freely both from Scotland and Ireland. The Secretary to the Admiralty and the Admiralty officials, I know, have some red-tape objections to this scheme. They advert, I believe, to the great variety of ratings in the Navy as distinguished from the Army, and not being able to get the proper proportions of men for national ships to fill each rating. But surely, without arriving at exactitude in the way of having all the men on one ship of one nationality, it might be possible to arrive approximately and broadly at this result, even although men of other nationalities were in measure drafted in to fill ratings in which the nationality to which the ship belonged was deficient. In any event, it is the duty of the officials not to be bound by red tape, but to burst asunder such bonds, and find some way of meeting the point with which I have been dealing. I commend to the most serious attention of the Admiralty this suggestion of territorialising some ships. I would like to call attention to another point, affecting the officers. The training of our naval officers must be lamentably deficient in the matter of naval history. We owe it to America that she has produced the only officer who has been capable of awakening the mind, not only of Americans, but of Europe, upon the importance of the great question of sea power. There are many officers in His Majesty's Navy who have not undertaken, with all the diligence that is necessary, the study of works in naval history like that produced by Captain Mahan and others, and this is a point I should venture to commend to the attention of the Admiralty.

MR. MAJENDIE (Portsmouth) said he very much regretted that the hon. Member for Dundee was not present, for he had a very considerable amount of fault to find with one statement of the hon. Member. He practically stated that he objected to the amount of money provided for in the Naval Estimates this year. As one of the strongest supporters of His Majesty's Government, he (Mr. Majendie) rejoiced to think that in no way had there been any retrenchment as regards expenditure on the Navy. In other words, knowing as they did that there must be a considerable sum voted for the Army Estimates, they found that in no way had the Navy suffered in the sum to be voted for the Navy Estimates.

Passing to another subject, he listened with great interest last night to the speech of the hon. and gallant Member for Great Yarmouth, in which he spoke of the *personnel* of the Navy, but he would like to touch upon that subject in a different manner altogether. He would like to bring up the question of the food supplied to the lower deck. Probably not many Members of this House understood fully what the food of the lower deck was. To begin with, he would give the number of meals provided. The hours of meals were: six o'clock, breakfast; dinner, twelve o'clock; tea, from four to five. Of course, this varied in many ships, but he wished to go into the subject of the food provided. The breakfast of the seaman consisted of a piece of dry bread and a pint of tea. His dinner might consist of one pound of beef with half a pound of vegetables, or a variation of one pound of salt pork, three-quarters of a pound of salt beef with preserved potatoes, or three-quarters of a pound of mutton with rice. He maintained that was not sufficient food for the British seaman. The Navy was supposed to be thoroughly fed in every way, but he would compare it with the Army in this respect. The Army were given free clothing, free food, and free everything at the same time. Taking a rough estimate, he would say that a man in the Navy had to pay at least 15s. a month out of his pay towards these things.

He would pass from the ordinary seaman to the chief petty officers, which he thought was a question standing out in a glaring manner before everyone. There were three classes of petty officers, and every one of them were leading men on the lower deck. The chief petty officer was the man whom everybody on the lower deck looked up to, for he was responsible practically for the discipline and the carrying on of the whole of the work on the lower deck. Again, when the chief petty officer retired from the Service he was only eligible for a first-class petty officer's pension. Why should he not get due compensation for the work he had done, and why should he be reduced at the moment of his retirement? What he wanted was that the pension should be 3s. a day. He sincerely hoped that something would be done to create in the Navy a rank corresponding to that of quartermaster in the Army. What inducement was there for a good man to enter the Navy when he could rise no higher than a warrant officer? In the Army commissions were given over and over again from the ranks. Why should not the senior Service have an equal privilege extended to them? Three commissions only had been given in the Navy—one to Mr. Creely, one to Mr. Webber, and one to Mr. Sims, the two former in respect of service in Egypt, and the latter during the present war. He noticed that the Secretary to the Admiralty had stated that certain rank was to be given to 100 electricians, but where did the chief armourer come in? He had practically charge of all the electrical appliances in the ship. Then, at present the chief stoker could not rise above the rank of chief petty officer. He suggested that the chief stokers should be granted the rank of warrant officers.

He had himself been down in the engine-room, and had seen the tremendous responsibility that lay on these men.

Coming now to the officers on the quarter deck—an officer when abroad was granted a fortnight's leave, but if he was on a permanent station he had a right to claim six weeks leave. All the leave which the seven or nine officers on board the "Centurion," the flagship on the China station, and which was recommissioned on 1st April, 1897, would have would be eight weeks. On the other hand, there was not an officer in the Army who could not claim two or three months leave in the year, and if not they could have indulgences and could get many a forty-eight hours leave to go on urgent private affairs; whereas in the Navy an officer who had been abroad for many years could only get six weeks leave, and perhaps only two or three, to visit his friends.

He would like to say something as regarded the ships of the Navy. He maintained that the Mediterranean squadron had been materially reduced by sending the "Ocean" to China. He was not saying that that was not just. It was necessary to have the strongest possible fleet in China; but the Mediterranean Fleet should not be so materially reduced, and we had not a single battleship to send in place of the "Ocean." Then the "Centurion" and the "Barfleur," in the China Squadron, ought to have been relieved long ago, but we had not the battleships to spare for the purpose. It was hoped that the "Albion" and the "Implacable" would be shortly ready for sea, but the gun-mountings had been taken out of the "Implacable" and put into the "Irresistible." He felt that he was making a speech against the Government, but he hoped that every effort would be made to get more battleships. As regarded the first-class cruisers, he had nothing to say against them. With the programme we now had we should have the finest set of first-class armoured cruisers in the world. [An Hon. Member: When?] He maintained that at this moment we were not short of first-class cruisers. As to the second-class cruisers, he had nothing to complain of but their speed. Ten years ago we were content with a speed of twenty knots; but he contended that that was not sufficient now. Quite recently eighteen second-class cruisers had been built, mostly in private yards in England, with a speed of over twenty-two knots. Two ships had been built for China and one for Russia—the latter not built in an English yard—with a speed of twenty-four knots. Some people said that there was no use for second-class cruisers; but he maintained that they were useful for watching our enemy's ports. If we were at war with a foreign nation the most useful ships would be the second and third class cruisers. He had not the slightest idea of what the speed of the new cruisers to be built would be, but he did urge on the Admiralty that they should improve the speed of those already built. They had heard something about submarine boats, and he must confess that it pleased him that France was a little scared that we were building five submarine ships, the policy of which he entirely endorsed. Everybody had listened with great attention and admiration to the speech of the Secretary for War in regard to Army reform. One sentence in that speech had struck him particularly, and that was that further inducements would be held out to men to join the Army, such as the reduction of barrack square drill. He could not in any way advocate this in regard to the Navy, but many reforms might be introduced in the training of the men on the lower deck. It was said that had it not been for the present war the unsatisfactory management of the Army might have gone on long enough. He did not wish for a moment to speak against the Army; but he said, God forbid that we should have to have a naval war before it was necessary to introduce that needed reform in our Navy.

*Mr. O'DOHERTY (Donegal, N.) said that the dispute as to whether the old style of boilers or the Belleville boilers should be adopted in the Navy was not a matter which interested him or his constituents. It had been alleged by hon. Members opposite that Ireland had as much interest as other parts of the Empire in increasing the effective naval forces of the Empire. That he denied. The English Government had not dared to ask Canada, Australia, or the other self-governing colonies to contribute towards the maintenance of the Navy in the same measure as they had asked the poorer country Ireland. He observed in these huge Navy Votes £300,000 was to be spent in new works at Gibraltar, £30,260 on the dockyard at Bermuda, and £60,000 on a coaling station at the Falkland Islands. Now, he maintained that these works were of as much if not more advantage to Canada and to the Australian colonies as to the people of Ireland. That was putting the case of Ireland on a very low ground indeed; but right hon. Gentlemen who sat on the Treasury Bench had not dared to ask Canada and Australia to contribute a single penny towards the expense of these works. It was a mere playing with words to say that Ireland was as much interested as other parts of the Empire in this expenditure. There was no expenditure from which Ireland got so little benefit as that on the Navy What interest had Ireland in maintaining the supremacy of the seas for England? Ireland existed on the produce of Ireland, and, indeed, she sent a great deal of her produce, in addition, to England, Scotland and Wales. Therefore, he protested against the theory that Ireland was as much interested as Great Britain in this enormous Naval expenditure. Ireland should be placed in the same position, so far as the Naval expenditure was concerned, as Australia and Canada occupied to-day.

He had another objection to this Vote, and that was, that Ireland received little or nothing at all from the actual expenditure of the many millions asked from the House. He asked the hon. Gentleman who represented the Admiralty why Ireland was not considered in allocating the contracts for the building and repair of war vessels for the Navy. A most extraordinary thing to his mind, as a business man, was that the south of England was chosen for the expenditure of many millions of money on dockyards and the equipments of dockyards. It was a singular fact that not a single site in the neighbourhood of these dockyards had been chosen by commercial firms for the erection of great manufacturing works. Contrast with that the great shipbuilding centres of Scotland and Ireland—the Clyde, Belfast and Londonderry. He ventured to assert that there was not a single dockyard or shipbuilding centre in England the establishment of which could be defended on commercial principles by any member on the Government Benches. Their policy in this, as in every other case, was that the English Government had been more anti-Irish than commercial. In no part of the three kingdoms could cheaper or more efficient labour be obtained than in the city of Londonderry. The establishment of dockyards and other great Admiralty works at Londonderry and Belfast had been raised time and again from these Benches, but not a single penny of Government money had been spent in building or repairing warships at these ports. He remembered that on the eve of the General Election of 1895 the right hon. Member for South Antrim, who then represented the Admiralty in the House, came to Londonderry and addressed a Unionist meeting there, and the burden of his speech was that Derry would get, not the building or repairing of one warship, but the building of dozens of warships; at least that was the purport of his remarks, and that was why he was brought down as a decoy duck for the electors of Derry to address an election meeting.

Mr. MACARTNEY: I deny the correctness of what the hon. Member has stated, and I ask him to quote any portion of my speech which bears out the assertion he has made.

*Mr. O'DOHERTY: Although I was election agent for the Nationalist candidate, I went to the Guildhall, where the right hon. Gentleman addressed a meeting. It was a reason put forward by the Unionists as to why Derry men should support the candidate favoured by the hon. Member.

Mr. MACARTNEY: No, Sir, I must ask the hon. Member to quote my exact words. I have denied the correctness of his statement, and I must ask him to withdraw it—[Cries of "Oh" from the Irish Benches]—unless he quotes the speech bearing the construction he has placed upon it.

*Mr. O'DOHERTY: In the law courts in which I practise if personal and direct testimony can be given quotations or secondary evidence are not admitted. I am now giving my personal recollection.

Mr. MACARTNEY: I really must insist on the hon. Gentleman—[Cries of "Order, order!" and "Who are you to insist?" from the Irish Benches.] I am entitled, according to the practice of the House, to ask the hon. Gentleman to quote the speech upon which he relies for the statement he has now made in the House. I have denied that there is any foundation for the statement, and I must ask him either to withdraw that statement or to produce the speech. [Cries of "Order!" from the Irish Benches.]

*Mr. O'DOHERTY: I ask the right hon. Member if he did not come to Londonderry at that election to support the candidature of Mr. Herdman and address a meeting in the Guildhall.

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! This is a very long way from the question of the Navy Estimates.

*Mr. O'DOHERTY: It has something to do, Sir, with the building of ships and the spending of some of this vast Naval expenditure in our country.

*Mr. SPEAKER: It has nothing to do with the building of ships in the sense in which shipbuilding is provided for in the Estimates.

*Mr. O'DOHERTY said he would bow to the ruling of the Chair and not further refer to the matter. But when the right hon. Member and other hon. Gentlemen on the other side asked the Irish people at election times to return their party to power on these promises he thought it was only fair that he should refresh their memories now across the floor of the House. In 1887, Mr. Justin McCarthy, who was then Member for Derry City, raised the question in this House, and was told by the present Secretary of State for India that the Derry shipbuilding yards would be examined to find out whether they were fit for Government work. In 1889 Mr. McCarthy was further told that this shipbuilding yard had been examined by an expert, and that this expert had certified that the yard was fit for Government work. Though that was thirteen years ago, not a single penny of Government money had been spent in the city by the Foyle, either in the repair or the building of warships. When the Channel Squadron visited the waters of the Foyle or Lough Swilly the slightest repair that had to be made on any vessel of that squadron was executed in an English dockyard. The Derry shipbuilders were not allowed to do any repairing work, although the ships were actually in their port. He ventured to say that out of all the millions spent on the Navy not £50 were spent in Ireland. It struck him that if the cities of Londonderry and Belfast had not been Irish cities dockyards would have been established there long ago. And in this respect he might add that the orange tint of the sky in these cities had no more attraction for the Admiralty than had the green tint in Cork. This question had been discussed at the General Election, not only in Londonderry, but in the city of Galway and elsewhere, and Unionist candidates had assured the Irish voters that if they only elected them the Government which they supported would have dockyards and shipbuilding yards growing up like mushrooms in their bays and rivers. Months had passed, and not a single ship, or even row boat, had been constructed, and, as in the past, the electors in these cities had been duped. One point more. When questions had been raised as to the expenditure of these huge sums of money for the Navy, it had never been raised by hon. Gentlemen from Ireland who sat on the opposite side of the House, but invariably by the Irish Members on these benches. It was they who protested that more money was not spent by the Government in Ireland. Where were those hon. Members to-day who were so flippant with their promises as to the building of warships in Ireland in October last, and why was this question left to hon. Members like himself, who were not particularly interested in the shipbuilding towns of Ireland, but who were only concerned with the general material progress and prosperity of every part of their country? He would appeal to the hon. Gentleman who represented the Admiralty in the House and who represented a constituency whose well-being was bound up with the shipbuilding in Ireland, to see that when contracts for the building and repair of warships were given out by the Admiralty, a fair amount, all things being equal, should be given to the Irish shipbuilding yards. He had no doubt that if the hon. Gentleman did that a new industry would grow up and flourish in many of the seaport cities of Ireland, as the shipbuilding industry had sprung up and flourished in Belfast.

*MR. MACARTNEY said that the concluding observation of the hon. Gentleman deserved a good deal of attention. He, however, wished to draw attention to the criticism on Naval expenditure made the previous night by the hon. Member for Dundee, which must be regarded with a certain amount of anxiety seeing that the hon. Gentleman represented, in Naval matters, the party opposite. The hon. Member had emphasised very strongly his views in regard to the expenditure on the Navy in this country, and had expressed the greatest anxiety as to the magnitude of the proposals of the First Lord of the Admiralty. The hon. Gentleman had taken up a position which he was bound to admit he was justified in doing, of requiring full explanations of these gigantic proposals, and no doubt before these debates were over the hon. Gentleman would hear a justification from the Front Bench for the proposals which he hoped would enable him to acquiesce in them. If, however, the hon. Gentleman was not fully satisfied he is bound to move an Amendment which would give definite expression to the feelings he enunciated the previous afternoon. The hon. Gentleman laid before the House certain figures which, so far as the position of this country was concerned, in respect to construction, were liable to misconstruction, and to give a misleading view as to the relative position of England and other countries. He compared the gross expenditure of the United Kingdom in 1893 with the gross expenditure of France and Russia in that year, and then he pointed out that in the interval our gross expenditure in naval matters had overlapped that of these two countries by something like fourteen millions. That was a comparison which was excessively misleading, if it were accepted as a true criterion of the relative position of Great Britain and its foreign competitors. What they had to look to was the position of the new construction abroad, and the new construction in this country. He thought if they did so that the House would agree that the proposals made by the First Lord of the Admiralty were far from being excessive, and, in reality, only met the natural requirements and the necessities of the moment. In 1899 the expenditure of France and Russia was a little over £8,000,000, and during the same period our expenditure was £7,500,000. France and Russia were £500,000 ahead of us in expenditure for new construction in 1899. In the present year their expenditure was estimated at £7,600,000, and ours was estimated at, and he hoped it would approach, £8,460,000, so that only in the present year had we recovered the position we had lost in 1899, in new construction. Upon these grounds he submitted that the proposal made by the Government was not excessive, and only adequate to the responsibilities of the country. It was entirely beside the question to compare the gross expenditure, which in recent years had been swollen by claims which other countries had not to bear, with that of foreign Powers.

He had heard with great pleasure the admission of the hon. Gentleman that the delay in new construction was due to natural causes, which the Admiralty could not control. The hon. Gentleman said that the paralysis of new construction was the result of difficulty in procuring machinery, not only for putting into the ships, but also the machinery necessary for manufacturing for all purposes required in Admiralty construction. He had no criticism to offer in regard to the Committee which had been appointed to inquire into the delay, because he believed that the conclusions arrived at by that Committee would sustain the statements which had been made by his hon. friend the Secretary to the Admiralty. The Committee would be forced to the conclusion that the delay in construction had not been the fault of the Admiralty, but had been due to circumstances over which they had no control, and which the contractors had been unable to combat. It had been suggested that the delay in new construction had been accentuated by the omission of the Admiralty to enforce penalties, but having regard to the fact that that delay had been caused largely by strikes, he did not believe the House would accept the proposition that the enforcing of penalties by the Admiralty against the contractors, would have in any way prevented it. The contractors had conclusively shown that they had done everything in their power to facilitate construction, and penalties were never enforced by the Admiralty unless they were perfectly convinced that the contractors had failed to do their best to carry out the work which they had in hand. He did not think that the Admiralty would depart from this rule, and at the same time he could assure the House that the penalties were always inflicted when there was just cause for their infliction. With regard to the rate of shipbuilding, the hon. Member for Devonport, speaking on the previous day, had said that the country had entirely lost that rapidity of shipbuilding which was in existence in 1894.

Mr. KEARLEY: Not the country but the Admiralty.

*Mr. MACARTNEY said the hon. Member for Devonport had stated that the rapidity of shipbuilding had entirely disappeared, and the inference which was deduced was that it was entirely the fault of the administration. Shipbuilding had decreased in rapidity, but the Admiralty in this regard was still ahead of foreign Powers. The rate of shipbuilding by the Admiralty in the Government dockyards was three years or a little over. The rate in the Government yards of France was three and a half years, in Russia five years, in Germany between three and four years; and the only country which could approach us in this matter, and who built their ships in this country, was Japan, whose average was a little under three years. So that if the rates of shipbuilding were compared there was not after all much difference. One advantage which foreign countries building in Great Britain had over the Admiralty arose from the fact that the persons responsible for the building of the ships were also responsible for the designs upon which those ships were built; but though this gave them an advantage, he did not think it would be wise for the Admiralty to alter the procedure which they adopted, because in all new classes of vessels which were being built there were questions arising which could only be solved from experience gained afloat, and which of a necessity could not be dealt with by the contractors, and could only be dealt with successfully by the Admiralty after they had consulted their experts. It was upon the period within which the "Majestic" and "Magnificent" were built that the exaggerated feeling in this country about the increased time of Admiralty ship construction was based. These two ships, which were built one at Chatham and one at Portsmouth, were built in two years and two months. How was it that in these two dockyards they were able to turn out these two ships in that period? The whole strength of the yards was turned on to them, and of the whole of the new construction money for 1894–95, amounting to £4,427,000, one-fourth was spent absolutely on these two ships. The "Renown," which was laid down one year before either of these two ships, was put on one side.

The hon. Member continued: I am not blaming the Admiralty of the day for the course they took, but it is the fact that the exceptional rate of construction arrived at in the case of these two ships was arrived at principally by turning on to them the whole strength of the yards, and by certainly not expediting any other new ship under construction, and by putting on one side the power of the yards to carry out the reconstruction and repair of other ships. That is admitted, and therefore I say it is an unfair standard to set up, for all the other ships of the "Majestic" class took two years and nine months, and, practically speaking, the average period was not much less than it is now. I feel confident that the hon. and learned Gentleman opposite will agree with me that, taking one year with another, and taking the conditions in private yards and the conditions in the Government dockyards, it would be impossible for the Admiralty to contend that a battleship could be built in a less period than three years. Therefore I submit that the delay in construction to which the public mind has been so much directed in the last few years has been the result entirely of natural causes; but the rate of construction has not materially diminished, and as compared with our great European competitors we are still practically ahead of them in the rate of our shipbuilding progress.

I wish to allude to other two questions referred to in the statement of the First Lord. One is the supply of shells and the other is the question of submarine boats. My hon. friend the Secretary to the Admiralty, I am sure quite unwittingly, used an expression in alluding to armour-piercing shells which has been taken up by some newspapers in the country in order to level an attack upon the late First Lord, Lord Goschen. One paper drew attention to it by saying that the Secretary to the Admiralty had referred to the great services Lord Goschen rendered to the Navy, and at the same time twitted him by saying that now for the first time the Admiralty had a supply of armour-piercing shells in the Navy. This question was under the consideration of the late administration and the Admiralty for some years, and it was Lord Goschen who first took money for the supply of these shells. Undoubtedly the late administration would have taken money for the supply of these shells if they had been in a position to place orders with contractors for their manufacture. But as hon. Gentlemen in the House who have taken an interest in the matter know, it was some time before the Admiralty succeeded in reaching a design which combined all the qualifications necessary for an effective armour-piercing shell. With regard to submarine boats, that was a matter which was dealt with by the late administration, and the contract for submarine boats was carried out by the administration of which Lord Goschen was at the head, but it is not quite clear from the statement of the First Lords. Practically, I may say, nine-tenths of what appears in the First Lord's statement is a statement of the policy carried out by Lord Goschen. A very important question, raised by the hon. Member for the Brightside Division, was that of Treasury control. I entirely disagree with the views he brought before the House, and I think it right to say a few words about it. I suppose the Secretary to the Admiralty has more to do with the Treasury than almost any other individual. I entirely deny that the Treasury in any way impedes the proper exercise of the responsibility of the Admiralty in expenditure. It is a delusion that exists in the public mind that the Treasury in some way or other has the power of preventing the Admiralty spending the money Parliament votes for naval purposes. The Treasury has no power whatever to interfere in the expenditure of the Admiralty. But above and beyond that, the Treasury invariably permit the Admiralty to apply, if they show proper reasons, any unexpended surplus which may accrue on one Vote to the necessities of another. Above all, should any sudden emergency arise, or should the Lords of the Admiralty consider it expedient from the point of view of public necessity, or in the interest of the Admiralty, to incur an expenditure for which they have not Parliamentary sanction, if the Lords of the Admiralty assume the responsibility of showing that this expenditure is necessary in the public interest and cannot be deferred without detriment to the public service, the Treasury invariably give way. The hon. Member for the Brightside Division naturally has not had the opportunity of studying those valuable Reports known as the Appropriation Account and the Dockyard Expenditure Account. If he had, he would have seen that there are in almost every page letters written by the Admiralty to the Treasury proposing expenditure, to which the Treasury give their sanction on the ground that the Admiralty have stated that to withhold sanction would be detrimental to the public interest. Over and over again in the last five years the Admiralty have received the sanction of the Treasury, unhesitatingly given, for the expenditure of public money for which the Admiralty have obtained no previous Parliamentary sanction; but the First Lord and his administration must take upon themselves the responsibility of justifying to the Treasury and the country the necessity for the exceptional demand which they make. I am bound to say, from the experience I had at the Admiralty of the numerous communications I had to make to the Treasury, that it is an absolute delusion or misrepresentation of the facts to suppose that the officials of the Treasury connected with Admiralty administration show any indisposition whatever to give just recognition to the claims of the Admiralty.

I wish to call the attention of the Secretary to the Admiralty to a most important question, which I can only raise on the general debate, but I do not ask an answer now. It is the question where the Army and Navy have interests which adjoin each other, and which very often become conflicting interests. At Chatham, Portsmouth, and Devonport, and in some foreign ports, the Army and Navy have establishments. The Admiralty ground and the War Office ground are mixed up in a positive jumble. Over and over again questions arise in which one Department or the other requires to give way. In many cases mutual concessions are arrived at without great difficulty. But the question which I wish to raise is one which does not rest upon small details. I shall choose Chatham as an illustration. If a question arises affecting the amount of ground which the naval authorities have there, and if they have established the necessity for expansion to the satisfaction of the Defence Committee of the Cabinet, or the Cabinet itself, there ought to be no question as to whether their demand should be conceded. The Army can go anywhere. They are not tied to Chatham, but the Navy are bound to that port. What I wish to impress on my hon. friend is the fact that we are spending enormous sums on expansion at Chatham, and the principle I have raised must be decided unless the naval service at Chatham is to be confined within limits which will be disastrous to the health of the men stationed there. I hope that the First Lord will realise that this is a matter of vital importance for the naval service, and that he will press it upon the Defence Committee of the Cabinet or the Cabinet itself. I do not profess to be competent as a scientific critic to discuss the Report of the Committee on water-tube boilers, but I do hope that the House will not be carried away by panic with regard to this matter. I hope the House will not press the Admiralty to come to some sudden conclusion which might not be altogether justified by the Report of the Committee. I feel bound to make this appeal to the House on account of the speeches which have been made by the hon. Members for Gateshead and the Shipley Division. They have to my mind put the case too strongly before the House. They have insisted that the vessels in which there are water-tube boilers are crippled in comparison with all the other vessels. I say, with all respect to my hon. friend the Member for the Shipley Division, whose professional knowledge I do not desire to dispute, that is a statement that cannot be supported. It is perfectly true that there are four or five of these vessels. [AN HON. MEMBER: More.] The cruisers in which there are water-tube boilers have exhibited most serious defects. They have practically broken down. I admit all that, but that is not the whole case. There are in Chinese waters, and in the Mediterranean, battleships and cruisers which are doing the ordinary work of the Fleet with complete satisfaction. In Chinese waters the "Glory," "Goliath," and "Ocean," three battleships, are, for anything I know, doing the ordinary work which all the other ships in the squadron are doing with complete satisfaction. The "Canopus" is the fastest ship in the Mediterranean Fleet. The "Andromeda," Vindictive," and "Gladiator" are all carrying out the work of the Fleet. These facts do not justify those who are urging that water-tube boilers should be taken out of all these ships. It would deprive the country of valuable ships which are doing their work admirably. It would diminish our naval strength without any adequate reason. I do not say anything about the proposition that the Belleville boilers should be put on one side. I am only deprecating the position taken up by the hon. Member for Gateshead, supported by the hon. Member for the Shipley Division—namely, that every ship with

Belleville boilers should have others substituted.

MR. WILLIAM ALLAN (Gateshead): The boilers are condemned by your own Committee.

*MR. MACARTNEY: I am not arguing that. I am arguing the statement superimposed on it. They are not crippled by comparison when you take the whole of them. You have these battleships doing the work of the squadrons without any complaint. I know that the hon. Member for Gateshead is perfectly in earnest in his views, but I say that he is pressing the matter too far on the House when he appeals to the Admiralty to take out of these ships water-tube boilers which have succeeded admirably. I have not the slightest doubt that the Admiralty and their advisers will consider this most serious matter, but I am sure the House and the country may rely upon them to do nothing to injure the present strength of His Majesty's Fleet.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: The Secretary to the Admiralty thought it necessary to make the request that we should keep back anything that could be kept back, and speak only on matters of first-class importance arising in the course of the present debate. There are two or three matters of importance which have arisen in the course of the present debate on which I have a few words to say, and I think those words should be said now rather than at a later stage. The hon. Member who has just sat down has made an admirable speech, and I hope that his criticisms may not always bear so official a tinge as they do at the present moment, when he is naturally defending his administration. The hon. Member began his speech by alluding to the speeches which had been made apparently against large expenditure. The hon. Member for North Donegal and the Irish Members generally, of course, view the matter from a different point of view from the other Members of the House. The Nationalist Members have their own point of view, which we understand and appreciate, but it is not necessary to argue things with them from exactly the same point of view as that from which we argue among ourselves. I turn to the remarks of the right hon. Member for South Antrim, and the other speakers to-night. The late Leader of the Liberal party, the Member for West Monmouthshire, a few days ago made a speech in this House upon the naval and military expenditure of the country. In that speech while attacking, and announcing for this session further attacks on military expenditure, he went out of his way to say that he would cheerfully grant any money the Admiralty thought necessary for the Navy, in order to provide for the safety of the country. I think my hon. and learned friend the Member for Dundee, although he guarded himself in a way, left on the minds of many hon. Members the impression that he did not take the same view, and that he was not prepared to accept so willingly the statement of the Government as to what was necessary in the way of Naval expenditure during the present year. In the statements of my hon. friend the Member for Dundee to which I allude he said—

> "He wished to place before the House the view taken by those who sat on that Bench and on that side of the House on the very important proposals of the Admiralty this year. . . . He wanted to call the serious attention of an indifferent House and an indifferent country to the magnitude of the proposals contained in the Estimates. Some years ago Mr. Goschen apologised for the Estimates of the day, and admitted they were colossal. They were colossal as compared with previous records, but they were pygmies as compared to the Estimates now before the House. . . . These Estimates were so vast and went so far beyond the standard it had hitherto been the object to attain, that they ought not to be made to the House without a full declaration of what they were wanted for."

If that is all he means, I am with him in thinking that Estimates so large as these ought not to be made without the fullest explanation of exactly what they are wanted for. I admit that the speech of the Secretary to the Admiralty was not so full a statement on many points as it might have been, but it was made under difficult circumstances, and was probably shortened by a long discussion which had preceded it. I hope therefore that the statement will be supplemented in the course of the later stages of this debate. I agree that we need much information to justify Estimates so large, but I hope my hon. and learned friend has been misunderstood when he is supposed to have said that these Estimates were too large, and that for reasons which I will very briefly give.

My hon. and learned friend is reported as saying that—

> "the provision for new construction was £9,000,000, the largest total for new construction ever proposed in this country."

I fear that those words, if not explained, will be misunderstood outside this House, because " new construction " to us here has a technical meaning. It is not what the country understands by new construction. Probably the great majority of the electorate when they read about that £9,000,000 for new construction will think it has to do with the new shipbuilding programme, whereas it is almost entirely for ships the building of which has been fully agreed to in past years. Our shipbuilding has fallen very heavily into arrear, and this so-called new construction programme is enormous because of the rapid efforts which have to be made to make up for the arrear of the past. The actual new construction in the ordinary service of the year is the very small programme which will be commenced, under the bad habit we have got into of recent times, at the end of the financial year. It is a very small programme—three battleships. There are many Members who believe, in spite of the remarks of the hon. Member for South Antrim, that these programmes are occasionally reduced through Treasury influences. It is a curious thing that although that statement is always denied in the House, Mr. Childers, who had a unique experience, having been First Lord of the Admiralty, Secretary of State for War, and Chancellor of the Exchequer, has in his Memoirs left it on record that he agreed with Sir John Briggs, an Admiralty clerk, in that famous book which made such a great sensation, in thinking that the truth is not always told in this matter, and that the Treasury does sometimes produce a prejudicial effect.

The hon. Member for Dundee suggested that we were in some degree exceeding the standard of which we have heard so much, and which in past years has been laid down as the standard for shipbuilding in this country. I have often said that that standard was a very useful one. A war between this country and the two Powers of Russia and France, which is contemplated in this standard, is a most unlikely one, but the advantage of the standard has always been that it has given you a margin by the efficiency of your Fleet to fight single-handed against possible allied operations which was sufficient to make even a more formidable group of Powers pause before attacking you at sea. That standard, in spite of occasional scares on the one hand, and, on the other hand, statements as to exaggerated Estimates, has not in practice greatly varied for a great number of years. In 1883 it was possible to argue, as Mr. Childers argued, that we had a practical superiority over four fleets. Even before the scare of 1884-1885 the standard was substantially that which we have since maintained, and I believe that at no time have we fallen very greatly short of it. But there have been, no doubt, within the last year or two a number of delays.

Of course the expenditure involved is very great. The Secretary for the Colonies a few years ago made a speech in favour of an alliance with a military Power. He said that the alternative was to build up so as to make ourselves safe against a combination of three Powers, and that that would entail an addition of 50 per cent. to the Estimates. Since that time we have added more than 50 per cent. to our Estimates. Of course the expenditure is very great; but is there a man in this House—I am not speaking of the Irish Nationalists, who have their own point of view, which we perfectly appreciate—who believes that it is not necessary for us to continue to maintain that practical standard which would lead even three Powers to hesitate before attacking During the last year we have, happily had friendship between ourselves and Germany; I believe that that friendship may long continue, and I hope it will. But it is impossible to shut our eyes to the fact that there have been distinctly proposed to the German Houses, by Admiral Tirpitz, Estimates which are based on the possibility of an outbreak of war with England. Von der Golz, who is the highest literary authority on this subject, has said the same thing. We have seen also that remarkable preparation of strategic cables on the part of Germany, in which they have combined with Holland to

Sir Charles Dilke.

have their own system of cables—Dutch and German—throughout the world, in order to be entirely independent of British cables in the event of a possible Naval war. In face of facts of that kind, which can be infinitely multiplied, it seems to me it would be monstrous on our part to fail to maintain that standard, and that it is our bounden duty both to make up for the delays which have occurred and to vote programmes in the future which should be sufficient to keep up that standard.

With regard to the delays, they are admitted. There is no suggestion now that the delays have not been very serious. The right hon. Member for South Antrim has, to some extent, officially explained them to-night, upon grounds which I think will not bear very serious examination. He has alluded, for example, to the Japanese battleships. Now, what is the reason given by the suppliers of those battleships for the great difference of pace at which we can build, in this country, battleships for foreign Powers as compared with vessels built for ourselves? Mr. Hills gives it in the papers of to-day in his speech at a launch, and it strengthens our case against the Admiralty. I thank the Secretary to the Admiralty for the step he has taken in consulting on this subject great specialists like Sir Thomas Sutherland and the hon. Member for Maidstone, by appointing a Committee on this matter. With regard to these delays, there is also the extraordinary case recalled by a question of the hon. Member for Devonport in this House the other day. The resuscitation of the dockyard strike by the right hon. Member for South Antrim as a reason for the delays is greatly affected by the extraordinary difference between ship and ship in our own dockyards. There were four ships of the "Bulwark" class built in the same dockyard—Devonport—and the difference between them was simply extraordinary. It was suggested that the dates of launching mean nothing, because of the different quantity of tons built in before the ships are launched. But an examination of the figures shows that even allowing for the difference in tons built in, the difference between ship and ship is something like two to one. The right hon. Member has said that in cruisers we have shown that we can build as fast as anybody else. Here are the facts with regard to the four vessels of the "Cressy" class. They were announced to us beforehand, as it were, in February, 1897; they were proposed in a Supplementary Estimate, accompanied by the strongest possible language as to their instant necessity by the administration, of which the hon. right Member for South Antrim was a Member, in July, 1897. These ships were launched between July and November, 1898; yet only one of those ships is ready now, and we do not know when the other three will be ready at all. Just contrast with that the cruiser "Gromoboi" to which the right hon. Member for South Antrim alluded, built at St. Petersburg. He maintained that we can still build cruisers as fast as they can in Russia. What would have been thought four or five years ago of such a statement as that? It was always said that the Russian Navy did not count, as they could not build the ships; and yet now, all that we can claim, and that very doubtfully, is that on the average we can build cruisers as fast as they can. In this particular case the cruiser was laid down in May, 1898, that is to say, almost a year after the Supplementary Programme of Mr. Goschen concerning the four cruisers to which I have referred. That ship is actually in commission now.

MR. MACARTNEY: That is the only instance.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: But is it not a marvellous thing that they should have made such progress, and that that which seemed incredible a few years ago, should now be so easy of accomplishment? There is one matter in connection with the Belleville boilers to which I should like to allude, because it has not been mentioned in this debate, and it appears to me to have an essential bearing on the subject. I do not profess, and I have never professed, to have an opinion worth giving to the House upon technical subjects of this kind, but what the hon. and gallant Gentleman the Member for Yarmouth last night called the "human element" has played a part, I am quite certain, in connection with this boiler question, which is insufficiently appreciated by those who have strong opinions on either side. It perhaps does not suit particular specialists on either side to admit the enormous part which the human element undoubtedly plays in this matter. I have consulted the very highest Naval authorities in this country, and they all say most strongly that it is the training of the stokers which, after all, lies at the root of this question. These water-tube boilers are highly delicate instruments; they are like watches in their construction, and it is most dangerous to put these instruments in the hands of untrained men. The Admiralty made a great advance during Mr. Goschen's administration in the training of stokers, but they have not yet reached the point which should be reached. In regard to these matters the Admiralty are improving rapidly They have even decided this year, I believe, that strategy should be taught. It is about three years ago that such a proposal was scoffed at and ridiculed in this House, but they are now making a small beginning in that direction by throwing the teaching of strategy upon an already overworked, but very good man. In regard to the training of stokers they have done a great deal, but there is much more they must do. At the present moment they are still short of superior engine-room ratings and of sufficiently trained stokers; they are able now to pass only one-half of their engine-room artificers and stokers through the instructional ships. A new ship going to sea for a first command has from one-half to one-third of her engine-room complement consisting of raw hands. I believe, from the inquiries I have made, that the mischief is done on these first voyages; the boilers are really half destroyed on the first voyage out. A great deal has been quoted from the Belleville Report, but what both sides say with regard to the human element has not been quoted. Upon that both sides are agreed. The majority say that—

> "more than ordinary experience and skill are required on the part of the engine-room staff. It appears, however, from the evidence placed before the Committee, that the engineer officers in charge of Belleville boilers have not been made acquainted with the best method of working the boilers."

That is what the majority say, while the distinguished member of the Committee who supports the Belleville boiler says—

> "From the evidence of engineer officers who have had charge of boilers of this type in commissioned ships . . . it is a good steam generator, which will give satisfactory results when it is kept in good order and worked with the required care and skill."

I am convinced that there lies the secret. My hon. friend the Secretary to the Admiralty in his excellent statement rather suggested that the Admiralty had a boiler up their sleeve, as it were, which they would be able to produce in new ships. Unless they are going to take the retrograde step of going back to the old cylindrical boilers I believe they must attach a rapidly growing importance to this human element, and that it is in the training of the stokers that success will be found.

As my hon. friend perhaps suggested a little too easily that there was a boiler which could be adopted for future use, so too, perhaps, he suggested rather too easily another matter. He spoke of our new middle-sized guns, and said, with regard to the great erosion by cordite, that he hoped to produce a new powder which would give good results. I very much fear there may be a difficulty as regards the guns themselves in that new powder. If, as is foreshadowed in the Report which came out yesterday, we are to adopt a nitro-cellulose powder instead of our present cordite, the bulk of the powder will be much greater, and the result may be that we shall have to rearm all our ships. That is a very dangerous point, and if the hon. Gentleman can reassure us on that point we should be glad.

I will only add one word of congratulation to my hon. friend on the excellent statement he made the other day and express once more the hopes of all naval reformers in this House that he may continue to rouse that keen interest in the Navy in the future which he has hitherto displayed.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: May I venture to urge the House now to allow the Speaker to leave the Chair and to get on to Vote A and Vote 1? We can then continue the discussion which has been going on. The opportunity for discussion will be quite as great with the Chairman of Committees in the Chair as it is at present, and the same topics will be discussed without the rigid limitation which obtains when the House is sitting. There is one other argument I would urge in the same direction, which I am sure will have weight, and that is that my hon. friend who has this Vote in charge cannot reply to the many questions, comments and criticisms which have been passed upon his statement until the Speaker leaves the Chair, as he is precluded from again addressing the House.

Mr. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick) asked whether Irish Members would have an opportunity of placing their views before the House. They did not wish unnecessarily to prolong the debate, but only one Irish Member had yet taken part in the discussion.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Of course they will have their opportunities like the rest of the House upon Vote A and Vote 1.

Mr. DALY (Monaghan, S.) pointed out that of the £32,000,000 involved in these Estimates Ireland would have to pay £3,000,000, and yet she received not one penny of benefit in return. The protection of the Mercantile Marine had been spoken of, but if there was no Mercantile Marine there would be less food-stuffs coming into this country, with the result that a larger quantity would have to be obtained from Ireland, and market prices there would be enhanced. Another reason why Irishmen should protest against these Estimates was that while £21,700 were to be expended upon public buildings in Great Britain, only a few hundreds were to be expended in the same direction in Ireland. The hon. Member complained that none of the money for shipbuilding was expended in Ireland, and urged that the Admiralty should ascertain whether the work could not be done as efficiently, as well, and as cheaply, in Irish dockyards as elsewhere.

Mr. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green), dealing with the question of Belleville boilers, said he was prepared to pin his faith in this matter to the opinion of such experts as the hon. Member for Gateshead. The lives of the seamen manning these ships should be a matter for the House to consider, and if such experts as the hon. Member for Gateshead said that such boilers as the Belleville boiler were likely to prove a danger to the lives of the sailors, no time should be lost in getting them out of the ships and removing the peril to the sailors which the use of these boilers entailed. One point he wished to call attention to was that although a large portion of the money which was now being asked for would fall upon Ireland, she had never been allowed to have the ships which she had asked for to protect her fisheries, nor had she any part of the shipbuilding. Shipbuilding yards ought to be established in Ireland by the Government, if not to build, at least to repair, His Majesty's ships. He believed that if some of the contracts for building ships had been placed in Ireland, a large amount of the congestion on construction would have been avoided. There was also the question of clothing for the sailors. He thought that some of the factories in Ireland ought to be requisitioned to make a portion of that clothing. The whole policy of this country seemed to be to rob Ireland as much as possible and to make no return whatsoever.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I beg to move that the Question be now put.

*Mr. SPEAKER: If hon. Members tell me that there is a prospect of the discussion coming to a speedy conclusion, I shall not accept the motion, but if hon. Members tell me that they intend to continue at length, then I am afraid I must accept it.

Mr. NANNETTI: I represent a very important maritime constituency, and I much regret that the closure should have been put upon me.

*Mr. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty) said it had always been his practice to support whatever Government might be in power in their efforts to maintain the efficiency of the Fleet, but he desired to call attention to the fact that many of the ships on which large sums of money had been expended were lying idle at Portsmouth, and Chatham, and other naval ports, and it was only fair that such ships as were lying idle should be utilised for patrolling the fishing grounds around our coasts. The only extra cost entailed would be for coal, and these ships would be doing useful work instead of lying idle in port. The grievance of the fishermen was very great all the inshore fishing grounds were being ruined by trawlers. The Admiralty said it was not the work of the navy to catch trawlers, but police duty. That was an absurd idea, which he hoped would disappear. In his opinion it was of the utmost importance that the fishermen, not only on the coasts of Scotland, but also of England and Ireland, should be taken care of. Some of these days men who followed this occupation might be required for the Navy; and if through the neglect to conserve the fisheries they were driven into the towns they would be far less adapted for naval service. It was, therefore, highly desirable to preserve the fisheries, and so keep these men on our coasts. He appealed to the Secretary to the Admiralty to send some of these idle boats to patrol the fisheries. He also desired to draw attention to the importance of sending training ships round the coast, so that opportunities might be given to the sons of fishermen, already used to a sea-faring life, who would make far better recruits than boys taken from the towns. He also urged that the reserve station at Stornoway should be mounted with modern guns and not the old muzzle-loaders, which had been there for years.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND said there could be no question that the matter under discussion had now been fully discussed. The right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House had made an appeal to the House to go into Committee. Some of the Irish Members desired to draw attention to a great many matters in connection with the Vote which, in his opinion, might be discussed more freely in Committee than in the House; therefore if those who were responsible for the Votes would undertake to give some consideration to the remarks of his hon. friends in Committee, and would endeavour to answer the questions put, he thought it would be desirable that this discussion should end. There was to be a sitting next day, the business of which was to be confined to getting these two Votes and another formal matter to enable the Government to proceed with the Appropriation Bill; therefore, if the Government would come to an understanding that the sitting would not be prolonged to a late hour, and would give that assurance to the House, he on his part would advise his friends to reserve any remarks they desired to make until the House went into Committee.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I think the suggestion of the hon. Gentleman is a very reasonable one. I do not propose that there shall be a late sitting to-night, and if that is understood on my part, I hope it will be also understood on the part of hon. Members that there will not be an inordinately late sitting to-morrow.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND said he could not give any undertaking as to the length of time which the Saturday sitting would take. Many of his friends had specific matters to refer to, and he was unable to give any undertaking, but he thought if a conciliatory disposition was shown by the Government upon these Estimates there would be no reason for the sitting on Saturday to be inordinately prolonged.

Mr. ASQUITH (Fifeshire, E.): I understand that if the Speaker leaves the Chair and we go into Committee there is no intention on the part of the right hon. Gentleman to take the Reports after he has succeeded in getting the Votes.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: No; I propose that the whole of Monday shall be devoted to Reports. No Reports are to be taken to-morrow.

Mr. E. J. C. MORTON (Devonport): Do I understand that in these circumstances the right hon. Gentleman will try and get the two Votes to-night?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Certainly not Vote 1. I should like, if possible, to get Vote A.

An Hon. Member rising to continue the debate——

Question put, "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair."

The House divided:—Ayes, 232; Noes, 52. (Division List No. 90.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Asher, Alexander
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Asquith,Rt.Hn.HerbertHenry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot,Capt.Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Col. James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,Rt.Hon.A.J (Manch'r
Balfour,RtHnGeraldW(Leeds
Bartley, George C. T.
Beach,Rt.HonSirM.H.(Bristol
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Bignold, Arthur
Black, Alexander William
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brigg, John
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Caldwell, James
Carson,Rt.Hon.Sir EdwardH.
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish,VCW.(Derbyshire)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hon.J.(Birm.
Chamberlain,J.Austen(Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles R.
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A.Cameron(Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin EdwardBainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cust, Henry John C.
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, Sir H D. (Chatham)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dimsdale,Sir Joseph Cockfield
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Doxford,Sir William Theodore
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William H.
Egerton, Hon. A de Tatton
Elibank, Master of
Faber, George Denison
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes,Hon.Ailwyn Edward
Fenwick, Charles
Fergusson,Rt.Hn.Sir J.(Man'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald,SirRobertPenrose-
Fitzroy,Hon.EdwardAlgernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.
Garfit, William
Gibbs,Hn.A.G.H.(CityofLond.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.Herbert Jn.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.
Gordon,MajEvans-(T'rH'ml'ts
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Goschen, Hon. George J.
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Green,WalfordD(Wednesbury
Greene,SirE.W.(B'ySEdm'nds
Greene,HenryD.(Shrewsbury)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hain, Edward
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hamilton,RtHnLordG(Middx
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. W.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harris,FLeverton(Tynemouth
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Heath,ArthurHoward(Hanl'y
Henderson, Alexander
Higginbottom, S.W.
Hobhouse, Henry(Somerset,E.
Hope, J.F. (Shef'ld,Brightside
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks., N. R.)
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kenyon,Hon.Geo.T.(Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W.(Salop.
Keswick, William
Knowles, Lees
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee,ArthurH.(Hants.Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower,FrederickN.S.
Levy, Maurice
Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Bristol, S.
Lucas, Col. F. (Lowestoft)
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney,RtHnW.G.Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Arthur,William (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfres.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacey
More,Robt.Jasper(Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morgan, Hn. F. (Monm'thsh.)
Morgan,J.Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton,ArthurH.A.(Deptford
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robt. Gray C.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Gilbert
Partington, Oswald
Pemberton, John S. G.
Penn, John
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Price, Robert John
Pryce-Jones, Lieut.-Col. Edw.
Randles, John S.
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Ridley,HonM.W.(Stalybridge
Ridley,S.Forde(BethnalGreen
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Robson, William Snowdon
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson,RtHn.Col.Edw.J.
Seely, Chas. Hilton (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Smith,AbelH.(Hertford,East)
Smith,HC(Northmb.Tyneside
Smith,JamesParker(Lanarks.
Spencer,Rt.Hn.CR(Northants
Stanley,HonArthur(Ormskirk
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart,SirMarkJ.M'Taggart
Stroyan, John
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.JG(Oxf'd Univ.
Thomas,Alfred(Glamorgan,E.
Thomas,DavidAlfred(Merth'r
Thomson, F.W. (York, W.R.)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson,Wm. Edw. Murray
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Ure, Alexander
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Warner, ThomasCourtenayT.
Webb,Colonel WilliamGeorge
Weir, James Galloway

Welby, Lt.-Col A.C.E (Taunton
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wodehouse, Hn Armine (Essex
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Ambrose, Robert
Boyle, James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hayden, John Patrick
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Leamy, Edmund
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Fadden, Edward
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipper'ry Mid
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sullivan, Donal
Thompson, E. C. (Monaghan, N.

Tellers for the Noes—Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

SUPPLY.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. Lowther (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Navy Estimates, 1901–2.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That 118,625 men and boys be employed for the Sea and Coast Guard Services for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902, including 19,805 Royal Marines."

*The SECRETARY to the ADMIRALTY (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.): I think perhaps it would be convenient, after the long discussion we have had, if I were to reply now to the various questions addressed to me yesterday and to-day. My right hon. friend the Member for South Antrim raised one or two matters which I think demand attention. He spoke about the introduction of the armour-piercing shell, and I want to make it clear to the Committee that that was contemporaneous with the introduction of a new class of armour. I had no intention of suggesting that anything that had been lacking in the past was now supplied for the first time. I also wish to say as emphatically as I can what my right hon. friend has stated, that the submarine boat was in fact ordered by Mr. Goschen. There is one point with regard to myself which my right hon. friend has mentioned, and which I should like to qualify. He said that I had stated that in my opinion the arrears of shipbuilding were solely due to causes over which the Admiralty had no control. I do not think I committed myself to that, and if I did, I am quite certain it was not what I intended to convey. What I wished to make clear to the House was that while in my opinion these arrears were in a large measure attributable to causes over which neither the Admiralty nor the contractors had any control, there was a disputable margin of responsibility into which it was our duty to inquire. The very fact that we are now inquiring into the matter, and that I have been appointed to sit on a Committee to consider it, is proof that the Admiralty are willing to admit that there is a possibility of a further margin of responsibility existing, and that we are determined to get to the bottom of the question as to whether there is any responsibility on the part of the Admiralty or not for the delays that have taken place. If we find, as we may find, that there are methods of procedure adopted by the Admiralty which can be altered to the advantage of rapidity in shipbuilding we shall profit by the instruction we shall get.

My principal duty now is with reference to the very animated and very interesting speech made by the hon. and learned Member for Dundee, who has held a responsible post in connection with the administration of the Navy, and who was heard, as he was entitled to be heard, with interest and respect. The hon. Member asked me several specific questions, and he is entitled to replies. He asked me why Vote 16 had disappeared from the Naval Estimates. Vote 16 was a Vote connected with the payment in respect of the ships of the Australian Station, and the explanation of its disappearance is very simple. The Admiralty undertook to pay out of the Navy Funds to the Treasury a certain fixed sum during a period of ten years, which represented the capital value of certain ships on the Australian Station. The ten years have now elapsed, and the Vote which gave an account of that expenditure has also passed away from the Naval Estimates. The Agreement between the Admiralty and the Australian colonies had really nothing to do, except remotely, with the appearance of that Vote on the Estimates. That Agreement requires two years notice for its termination, and the notice has not yet been given. Then the hon. and learned Member asked me as to the increase in the number of subsidised cruisers.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): On a point of order, and for the information of the Committee, is not this Vote for a certain number of men and boys, and how, therefore, can the hon. Gentleman in Committee on that Vote deal with the other services included in Votes 1, 2, 3?

*THE CHAIRMAN: I thought the hon. Member was aware that on the first Vote of either the Naval or Army Estimates the general discussion takes place. It is a very old rule.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The hon. and learned Member asked me as to the very valuable and important increase in the number of subsidised cruisers, and he pointed out that there was no corresponding addition to the Vote. I confess I am a little surprised that the hon. and learned Member asked me that, because his memory will probably tell him that this particular Vote is not in respect of the same year as the other Votes, and that the money will not become due in the following year, and therefore does not appear in the present Estimates.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Part of it does.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Not to bring up the list as it now stands.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Instead of £63,000 in previous years you are only taking £7,000 this year.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The contracts have now been altered. A new system has come in, and the payments due in respect of the contracts will not come in for payment for another year. The hon. and learned Member also asked me about the new Admiralty contract, which he said had been a long time in concoction, and he inquired if it would be laid before the House. That is a most reasonable request, and will be complied with.

The hon. and learned Member passed from these matters of detail to much more important concerns of general principles, and he complained—I do not say in any very censorious tones, but in what he considered grounds of national welfare—of the large amount of these Estimates. That is perfectly legitimate, because, without grave necessity, it is not desirable that these enormous sums should be spent. He asked me where we were going to stop. What was to be the limit? I think my hon. friend who has spoken has given an answer to that. The limit is not one which we can place on this expenditure. We are complying with the resolution of this House, often expressed and often confirmed, that we shall maintain a numerical equality with the two next most important naval Powers. I can assure the hon. and learned Member that, large as these Estimates may be, they are framed strictly upon that basis, and they are so calculated that, if the House gives us the Supplies we require, we shall at any rate be able to comply with what I believe to be the general wish of the House—to keep pace with the efforts that are being made by other Powers. The question of limit does not lie with us, but with those who, with interests far inferior to ours, with less responsibilities than ours, think it their duty to pursue a remarkable career of shipbuilding, which this House has already on many occasions signified its opinion we ought to take into consideration in framing our Naval Estimates. I think I remember the hon. and learned Member saying that he was not at all opposed to that view which is largely held inside and outside the House, and that he was not at all reluctant to favourably consider the policy which we propose in accordance with the canon laid down for our guidance. There was one point in the speech of the hon. and learned Member with which I am specially sympathetic. He spoke, as he has often spoken before in this House, about the desirability, almost the necessity, of sharing the burden of naval defence with those other great members of our Imperial community which get the benefit of that defence. The hon. and learned Member is not one of those who share the unfortunate view expressed in the House last night that the colonists who volunteered for the service of the country can be justly described as "jail-birds and corner-boys." I can only say that there will be no want of co-operation on our part which may produce such a state of feeling in our colonies as to bring about the most desirable result wished for by my hon. and learned Member. There was, however, a time when the party to which the hon. and learned Member belongs was not as favourably disposed towards that idea as he now is, and I am not quite sure that the shortest and most certain way to obtain the co-operation we desire is to blame the colonies for not having given that which they have not been asked to give. We may take a lesson from the old fable, and believe that the sun will induce a man to take off his cloak sooner than the storm.

Several questions were also raised by the hon. and gallant Member for Great Yarmouth in his interesting speech, and he made one or two observations which are specially entitled to attention. He said that more time was needed by the officers of the Admiralty who are responsible for the defence of the country. I have neither the experience nor the position which would entitle me to go into that question, but I believe that the officers engaged in the defence of this country should have more leisure given them to consider the great problems which confront them. I believe that leisure will be more easily and certainly given, not by additions to the central staff, but by a greater decentralisation of the subordinate branches. The Admiralty hold that view, and they not only regard with favour, but desire most earnestly, to effect a decentralisation of some of the work which is now pressing on the office. The hon. and gallant Member spoke, as he has a full right to speak, for it is a matter to which he has given an enormous amount of attention, about masts-and-yards training for the Navy. He asked me if I could give the view of the Admiralty in regard to mast and yards training, and I wish I could answer the question as categorically as he put it. The Board is, however, a new one. There are four new members on it, and this important question must be considered very gravely and very carefully, in view of the great divergence of opinion which has marked the utterances of leading sailors with reference to it. At the present time, the possibilities of war are making such special demands on our cruisers, and our depôts for manning the cruisers, that it is, practically speaking, impossible to contemplate at this moment a return to a masted squadron, however desirable that may be. I think I have made that proposition clear.

At the present moment we have a large number of cruisers all over the globe, cruisers on the South African coast and the Chinese coast, and in order to make up their complements we have had to break up the training squadron for a time. The hon. and gallant Member suggests that a return to mast-and-sail training should be made. That may be a sound view, but I would point out to him that, such has been the increase in the *personnel* of the Navy, if we were going to give that training to all the seamen, it would be necessary to build no less than sixteen sailing ships. That is an important aspect of the question. We have now four sailing ships which I think have gone through a very long and very creditable service, but which can hardly be regarded as now suitable for the training of the Navy. They would be quite incapable of giving the necessary instruction, and instead of four we should have to have sixteen ships, practically all of which should be either built or purchased for the purpose. Therefore I think when we consider the strain imposed upon us by the present situation, and also the very serious question involved in the supply of such large machinery for mast-and-sail training, it is the duty of the present Board to allow a reasonable interval to elapse before coming to a decision on what is undoubtedly a most important question.

The hon. and gallant Member spoke, as I knew he would, in terms of appreciation of the institution of a school of strategy at Greenwich. I entirely share the view that we have not commenced a moment too soon that important addition to our course of naval instruction, and I am not inclined to differ very largely from the hon. and gallant Member when he said that £200 could not be looked upon as a sum never to be exceeded in the future.

The hon. Member for Devonport also delivered a very interesting speech. I owe him an explanation, as I believe I led him into a misapprehension in regard to the Royal Fleet Reserve, in which he is interested. He stated that I had led him to believe that 15,000 men was the total we hoped to obtain in the Royal Fleet Reserve. I certainly may have led him to that conclusion, but I may state now that we hope and believe that in Class B alone—the class composed of short-service men—we shall eventually obtain 15,000 men. If I misled the hon. Member on the subject I take this opportunity of putting the matter right. He asked me two other questions to which I can give more or less satisfactory replies. He asked me whether, considering that the pension of the widows of soldiers killed in action would be 5s., naval pensions would also be increased to that amount. I am happy to say that the Admiralty will make that very reasonable change. The money will come from the Naval Fund, and not from the Greenwich Hospital Fund. The hon. Member also referred to a matter which he has made particularly his own, namely, the question of the rewards to be granted to warrant officers. I do not propose to discuss at this moment some of the questions affecting warrant officers, but I wish to reply to the question of the hon. Member. He asked me whether any decision had been come to to vary the statutes of the Distinguished Service Order, so that it might be conferred on warrant officers. It is a remarkable fact that warrant officers are at this moment debarred from the honorary distinction which they have earned in the past, and will earn in the future, although it is conferred on soldiers in the Army who may be regarded as of equivalent rank. That anomaly is clearly indefensible, and cannot be prolonged, and although I cannot state the precise form and way in which it is to be removed, I can give the hon. Member a most positive assurance that the matter is not only under consideration, but has almost approached a point of decision, and I hope we shall shortly be able to announce a full solution of the question.

The hon. Member criticised the determination of the First Lord to appoint a Committee to take into consideration the question of arrears. He said he thought the Admiralty were quite competent to deal with that matter themselves. That is no doubt a very satisfactory view, but I can picture to myself the hon. Member taking a different view, and he—a very competent business man himself—saying, "This a great business question. Why do you not, like other business people, take the opinion of two or three competent business men?" I believe that view would be taken by many hon. Members, and it is a view which has often been expressed in this House. I myself venture to think that the course taken by the First Lord is not in any way incompatible with the maintenance of the responsibility of the Admiralty, and I believe that, on the whole, the course adopted will recommend itself to the House and to the country. We have been charged with remissness in respect to a definite and particular matter. We have been told that we have lessons to learn from business men outside the Admiralty, and we have now appointed a Committee to examnie whether that be so. If I happened, as Secretary to the Admiralty for the moment, to come down to the House and make the same report which I trust this Committee will make in a few months, I should be criticised, and anyone in my place would be criticised, and I should be told that what I said was simply the view of the Admiralty officials, and the whole question would be reopened again. If the Committee report that the delays are not the fault of the Admiralty, that will be a comfort and consolation to the Admiralty; if the Report suggests that the Admiralty had not done something that ought to have been done, that too will be a great advantage. Something of very much the same kind arose in connection with the criticisms of my hon. friend the Member for Gateshead and the hon. Member for Shipley.

My hon. friend the Member for Shipley has criticised us somewhat strongly upon this question of boilers, but here again I do ask the House to look fairly at the question. How does the matter really stand? The House hailed almost unanimously the appointment by the late First Lord of a Committee to inquire into this question. My hon. friend says we ought not to have unprofessional criticism upon Admiralty matters; but I have yet to learn that this House is not an unprofessional body. This matter of boilers was criticised so effectively that the House was all but convinced that it ought to divide on it against a strong Government. This House was practically unanimous in its acceptance, not only of a Committee, but of this Committee. I wish at once to say that no blame can be attached to this Committee for having issued an Interim Report. It has been said that their Report is incomplete. No doubt it is incomplete, but that is not the fault of the Committee. The situation, after all, is simply this. The Admiralty had to come down to this House and ask for a large Vote to commence the new programme for shipbuilding. I put it to any hon. Member whether it would have been possible for the representative of the Admiralty in this House to ask the House to vote that large sum of money without satisfying it that this great question which had been referred to the Committee had been decided in one sense or another? The First Lord put no pressure on this Committee at all, and he did what I respectfully suggest was the common-sense thing. He asked this Committee whether, in view of the meeting of the House of Commons, they were in a position to make an Interim Report to guide the representatives of the Admiralty when asking for Supply for the Navy. The Committee replied that they were in a position to do so, and they accordingly made an Interim Report. I think it is only fair to that Committee to point out that they made their Interim Report because they were asked to do so by the Admiralty. I want to make the position of the Admiralty absolutely clear in this matter. I do not object to being here as the whipping-boy of the Admiralty upon this question, though the position is rather an odd one, but I believe that what the country wishes to know is not who is to blame, but what we are going to do now, and I believe I can show that what is proposed by the Board of Admiralty is practically the only course which any sensible body could adopt under the circumstances. I have great respect for the hon. Member for Gateshead and his opinion, and he knows it. But, after all, the hon. Member is not Solomon in all his glory, and his is not the last word on this question. He has contributed very valuable information, and he has been the inspiring spirit of this inquiry. But we are nevertheless face to face with the fact that there are other opinions also upon this question. The hon. Member for Cardiff has expressed an opinion almost equally strong in an exactly contrary direction, and the hon. Member for Cardiff is a man of vast experience upon this question. But he is not the only person who takes a view directly contrary to the hon. Member for Gateshead.

Let me remind the Committee what the issue is. There are two issues to decide. The hon. Member for Gateshead says we should have no water-tube boilers at all; the Boilers Committee say, "Let us have water-tube boilers, but not this particular type."

We have to decide whether the hon. Member for Gateshead or the Committee be right or wrong. It may be that the Member for Gateshead is quite right, and that the cylindrical boiler is the only practical boiler. I do not think this House would be inclined to accept that view, because there is a vast amount of opinion to the contrary which it is not possible to ignore. We have the opinion of every advisory board of nearly every Admiralty in the world—Germany, France, the United States, Japan, Russia, Italy—and all of them take a view directly opposed to that of the hon. Member for Gateshead. We have also the view of this Committee, against the composition of which nobody has spoken a word. Therefore, speaking as a representative of the Admiralty, I am bound to take the view that the water-tube boiler system is the system which should be adopted in the Royal Navy.

I now come to the question as to what we are to do in regard to the ships at present fitted with the Belleville boilers. It has been argued by some hon. Members that we ought to take all the water-tube boilers out of the ships in which they have been fitted and replace them by others. But that is not the view of the Admiralty. It is a grave exaggeration to say that the Belleville boiler is destroying our ships. I do not take the view that the Belleville boiler is the best that can be obtained, but it is a boiler which is doing excellent work. The hon. Member opposite asked me if this boiler had ever done more than a thirty hours run. I do not think that there is any real foundation for the kind of criticism which has been passed on this point. The "Ocean," the "Andromeda," and the "Diadem" have all run long courses at sea, and have steamed efficiently with these boilers. The "Diadem" ran 1,123 miles at 19·7 knots; the "Andromeda" 891 miles at 19·7 knots; and the "Ocean" has just successfully steamed to China, and she has run 790 miles at 16·9 knots, or nearly 17 knots per hour. These are occurrences which are taking place every day. Nor should I like to commit myself to the admission that we may not be able to improve the steaming qualities of the Belleville boiler. On the contrary, I agree with the Member for Forest of Dean that an enormous amount depends upon the manipulation of these boilers, and I think it would have been an advantage if the training of the men who work them had been put upon a wider basis. At the present moment no effort is being spared to increase the opportunities of training stokers in regard to the manipulation of water-tube boilers, and every day we are increasing the facilities for training the stokers in relation to Belleville boilers. That being so, what are we to do? The Boilers Committee has not recommended any boiler to take the place of the boilers at present in use, but it has recommended that cylindrical boilers should not take the place of Belleville boilers. Indeed I am assured that that cannot be done without the sacrifice of speed and efficiency.

We have given a pledge to the House that we will stop the introduction of Belleville boilers wherever it is possible without causing unnecessary delay in the building of our ships. I think it would be wrong on the part of the Admiralty to give a pledge which would involve any considerable delay in the completion of these ships. Experiments are being made with the greatest possible celerity for testing amply those other boilers which have already been amply tested in the ships of other nations, and we are endeavouring to ascertain whether they can with advantage be substituted for the Belleville boilers. Those trials will be undertaken and completed so soon that the experience to be gained from them will not delay by one single day the completion of the ships for which the new boilers are intended, and by taking this course I believe this House, and the country as well, will think that we are serving it in the most effective way possible. It is not impossible that some enormous advantage may be shown on behalf of these boilers by this inquiry, and that the experience gained may be applied with advantage to the ships fitted with the Belleville boiler. I do not profess to be an authority on engineering questions, but I do not think it is impossible to replace the Belleville boiler with a water-tube boiler of another type. I think I am also justified in saying that it would not be possible to replace the existing Belleville boilers in the ships which possess them by cylindrical boilers without sacrificing something in the way of speed and efficiency. We do not want to add to the weight or diminish either the speed or the coal supply unless there is some absolutely overwhelming necessity for it. My belief is that the example set by Germany and the United States is one which we might follow without very great fear. I should like to read one very short extract from an authority which will command the confidence of this House. This is an extract from the Report made by the chief adviser of the American Navy—

> "Some years ago this Department (the Bureau of Steam Engineering) was urged, with no little pressure, to adopt the Belleville water-tube boiler as a standard for the new ships. This Bureau opposed the innovation wholly upon a close examination of the designs, criticising the very defective features which in later years have made conspicuous the comparative inefficiency of this type over the purely straight-tube non-screw-joint type, for which I have given continuous and urgent preference. The Department is to be congratulated upon escape from this 'pressure,' and upon the conservative approval it has given to the change in the boilers of naval ships. Instead of having been encumbered during the last war with ships powered with type of boiler necessitating a specially trained force even for its safe operation, the most effective vessels had either retained the Scotch boiler or possessed the simple straight-tube Babcock and Wilcox boiler, and remained free from any real danger."

After their experience during the blockade of Cuba the United States Navy Department decided to abandon the Scotch boiler and to put in its place the water-tube boiler manufactured by Babcock and Wilcox, which is the boiler now being experimented with by our own Admiralty.

I believe that I have now said enough to persuade all reasonable men that the Admiralty are taking the proper course in regard to this question of boilers. We refuse to delay the completion of any ship, and we are going to put a water-tube boiler into every ship in which they can be put so as to secure efficiency and speed. We are going to reserve any alteration in existing ships until we have some further evidence to guide us, and I may say that we are not going to go in advance of our information. We are not going to destroy the efficiency of any of His Majesty's ships until it has been made perfectly clear that it is absolutely essential in the interests of the Navy that we should do so. If it is necessary to alter any of those ships it will not be in the interests of the Navy that such alterations should take place on a great scale, but it will be necessary to withdraw the ships one by one and place them in the hands of the dockyard officials. That is all I have to say upon this important matter, and if I have spoken too long about it, it is because I know that by the evidence I have received in this House and outside that it is a matter which is receiving and deserves to receive very careful attention.

The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Forest of Dean has spoken upon the question of the new powder. I will repeat the statement which I made on another occasion, namely, that we are sanguine that the work of the Explosives Committee will have a favourable result, and we do not anticipate the difficulty which very naturally suggests itself to the right hon. Baronet with regard to the guns. It is a fact that in all probability the new powder will be of larger bulk than that now used, but there is no reason to believe that that will prove a practical difficulty in adapting it to the chambers of our existing guns. I trust that I have now dealt with all the principal matters that have been mentioned. There are other matters which are not unimportant, such as those raised by the hon. Member for Portsmouth, which have a great bearing upon the welfare of the sailors and those who serve on the lower deck. I do not set them aside to-night because they are unimportant, but because I venture to say that they might be more advantageously dealt with at another stage of our proceedings. I have confined myself to the important matters which legitimately come within the scope of general discussion, and I think I have given answers, as far as I can remember, to all the questions which have been raised.

Committee report Progress; to sit again to-morrow.

Adjourned at half-past Twelve of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Saturday, 23*rd March*, 1901.

The House met at Twelve of the clock.

BERWICKSHIRE COUNTY TOWN BILL [LORDS].

Order [22nd March] referring the Bill to the Examiners read, and discharged. Bill to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 117.]

PETITIONS.

BEER BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Lolworth; Carlton; Swavesey; Great Bradley; West Wickham; Stetchworth; Horseheath; Great Wratting; St. Ives; Haverhill; Little Bradley; Isleham; Warrington; Wickhambrook; Cambridge; and Salop; to lie upon the Table.

COAL MINES (EMPLOYMENT) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Hornthorpes; Southgate; Barlborough; and Whitehaven; to lie upon the Table.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).

Petition from Aberavon, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

INHABITED HOUSE DUTY AND INCOME TAX.

Petition from Westminster, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Tipton; Whitehaven; Hornthorpes; Barlborough; Southgate; and Whitwell; to lie upon the Table.

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.

Petitions for extension to women, from Motherwell; Bloomsbury and other places; Personal Rights Association; and Llanfairnantgwyn; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Walsingham; and Wells (Norfolk); to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Heckmondwike (two); Morecambe (four); Bromley (five); Skerton; Iping; Galgate; Caerwys (three); Higher Broughton; Wigan (three); Atherton; Great Lever (two); Little Lever; Bolton (two); Glasgow; Manchester; Ruabon; Brymbo; Edgworth (two); Aspull; Swinton (two); Llangoed; Edinburgh; Bodedern; Cardiff; West Ham (four); Llangefni; Holborn; Lancaster (seven); Eccles (two); Llandefan; Llandegfan; Llanerchymedd; Brockley; Sydenham; Birstall (two); Liversedge (two); Bedfordshire; Sunderland; Halton; Sunningdale; Tullyallan; Beckenham; Widmore; Stirling; St. Giles; Atherington; Wealdstone; Harrow Weald; Tweedmouth; Plaistow; Tynemouth; Wincanton; Liverpool (three); East London; Ilkeston; New Hirst; St. George's-in-the-East (two); Sheffield (twenty-two); Peckham; Dumbarton; Littleborough; Macclesfield; Upholland; and Eccleshall Bierlow; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Glasgow; Stirling; Lanark; Aberdeen; Lochmaben; Dumfries; Maxwelltown; Traquair; Aberfeldy; Lochans; Earlston; Shettleston; Beith; Edinburgh (three); Dunoon; and Jedbergh; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

AMERICAN MAIL SERVICE.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 25th February; *Sir John Leng*]; to lie upon the Table.

SUPERANNUATIONS.

Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 16th March, 1901, declaring that for the due and efficient discharge of the duties of the office of Junior Inspector (Science and Art) in the Department of Agriculture, etc., in Ireland, Professional or other peculiar qualifications not ordinarily to be acquired in the Public Service are requisite [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

An Asterisk (*) *at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.*

COMMITTALS (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Returns from Clerks of the Crown and Peace of the number of persons Committed for Trial in the year 1900 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR — PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GENERAL BOTHA.

Mr. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Papers issued relating to the negotiations between Commandant Botha and Lord Kitchener contain all the information that has been received by His Majesty's Government as to the attitude of Commandant Botha throughout the negotiations; whether any specific objections were made by Commandant Botha to any of Lord Kitchener's terms; and, if so, what were their nature; and, whether any counter proposals were made by Commandant Botha; and, if so, in what terms.

The SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.): No specific objections were, so far as we know, made by Commandant Botha to any of Lord Kitchener's terms, and no counter proposals were made by Commandant Botha. As regards the first question, the only information which we have, besides what has already been published, was contained in a private telegram of Lord Kitchener in which he stated that in addition to the other matters which appeared on the Papers Commandant Botha had taken objection to Sir Alfred Milner.

Mr. JOHN ELLIS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War when the Telegram No. 4 in the Papers relating to recent negotiations between Commandant Botha and Lord Kitchener was received at the War Office; and whether any communication was made to Lord Kitchener between its receipt and the despatch of the Telegram No. 6 from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to Sir A. Milner; and, if so, what were the terms of such communication.

The SECRETARY of STATE for WAR (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford): The Telegram No. 4 from Lord Kitchener to me dated Pretoria, 1st March, 2.20 p.m., was not received till 4th March, owing to a mistake in South Africa. The only communication made to Lord Kitchener on this subject after despatch of Lord Kitchener's telegram, 1st March, and before 6th March, was a telegram from me asking Lord Kitchener what had delayed his account of the interview.

*Mr. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby): May I ask a question of the right hon. Gentleman as to letter No. 10. If he cannot tell me off-hand I will put down a question. March 20th is the date it purports to have been sent by Lord Kitchener to Mr. Brodrick, and I want to ask the date when that letter was sent by Lord Kitchener to Commandant Botha.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have not got the Papers here, but if the hon. Member will put the question down for Monday, I will then give him the date.

MAFEKING SIEGE—THEFT OF GOVERNMENT FOOD-STUFFS.

Mr. JOHN CAMPBELL (Armagh, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that Staff Sergeant-Major J. S. Loney who, during the siege of Mafeking, was tried by court-martial, pleaded guilty to the theft of Government food-stuffs, was sentenced to reduction, discharge with ignominy, and five years penal servitude; that, during the final attack on Mafeking, Loney was released and took a gallant part in its defence; and that he is at present serving his time at Portland; and whether, having regard to these facts and also to the fact that before joining Baden-Powell Loney was a warrant officer with an excellent character and fifteen years service, during ten of which he had no entry against him, a mitigation of the sentence may be granted.

Mr. BRODRICK: This question only appeared on the Paper this morning, and I have not had time to look into the facts.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY OF IRELAND—STRABANE COMPLAINT.

Mr. O'DOHERTY (Donegal, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of

Trade whether he can state the cause of the delay in bringing to trial the complaint lodged by the Strabane (county Tyrone) merchants against the Great Northern Railway Company, Ireland; when this cause was first instituted; and when will the railway commissioners adjudicate on the complaint filed.

The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of TRADE (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central): I assume that it is for the parties themselves to bring on the case for trial when it is ready. If the hon. Member will refer to the Report of the Railway and Canal Commissioners, dated 11th February this year, he will see that it was stated that the pleadings were not completed.

Mr. O'DOHERTY: Will the right hon. Gentleman request the Agricultural Department to put in force Section 17 of the Act of 1897?

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: I have no control over the Agricultural Department.

SUSPECTED PLAGUE CASE AT SOUTHAMPTON.

Mr. JOHN CAMPBELL: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if he can give any information as to the reported case of plague at Southampton, and what measures are being taken to prevent the spread of the disease.

The PRESIDENT of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.): The case referred to is that of a Lascar who was one of the crew of the "Simla," and came under the observation of the ship's surgeon when the vessel was two days out from Cape Town. Though regarded with some suspicion the case was deemed not to be one of plague, and on arrival at Southampton the man was sent to hospital for the local abscess to be opened. This having been done, and matter from the abscess having been bacterioscopically examined, the case was ascertained to have been one of chronic plague. The man is now convalescent. An Inspector of the Local Government Board has visited Southampton, and he reports that all necessary precautions have been taken by way of disinfection and for keeping under observation the various persons with whom the man had been associated during the voyage and afterwards.

BALLYBOFEY (DONEGAL)—SUB-POSTMASTERSHIP.

Mr. M'FADDEN (Donegal, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he can state the name of the person appointed Sub-Postmaster at Ballybofey, county Donegal, the salary attached to the office, and if the office is to be removed from the main street of the town to a lane-way, which would cause inconvenience to the public.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY to the TREASURY (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.): The Sub-Postmaster's name is Samuel Caldwell. His salary is £29 a year in addition to commission. The office is to be removed, but it is not anticipated that any inconvenience will result from the change.

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.

*Mr. O'DOHERTY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will grant the Return on the Notice Paper for Monday with reference to the Royal Irish Constabulary.

The Chief Secretary not being in his place,

*Mr. O'DOHERTY asked that the question be put down for Wednesday next.

*Mr. SPEAKER: It is not usual to put questions down for Wednesdays.

*Mr. O'DOHERTY: As I have already stated, I am only following the example set by the present occupants of the front bench in 1893, and I must insist on my questions appearing on Wednesday's Orders of the Day.

WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY SITTINGS—PRACTICE AS TO QUESTIONS.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): May I ask, Mr. Speaker, if there is any rule which exempts Wednesdays and Saturdays from questions? We have looked into the precedents and find that on the 11th March, 1892, when right hon. and hon. Gentlemen opposite were in Opposition they put down questions which filled fourteen pages of *Hansard* in order to bring Ministers down to answer them.

*Mr. SPEAKER: I am not aware that there has been any refusal at the Table to put a question for to-day.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND: No, but Ministers are not here to answer some on the Paper to-day.

*Mr. SPEAKER: In only one case, I believe. As regards Wednesdays, there is no Order of the House on the subject, but it is a general practice that questions shall not be put down for that day, and consequently Ministers are not expected to attend.

*Mr. O'DOHERTY: In putting some questions which are on the Orders of to-day for next Wednesday I am only following the example of the present Secretary of State for India and other right hon. Members now on the Treasury Bench who, on 11th March, 1893, being a Saturday sitting, had over fourteen pages of questions down for the Ministers who then formed Mr. Gladstone's administration in order to compel them to be in their places at the sitting of the House, and right hon. Gentlemen cannot now complain if they are beaten with the rod they themselves cut.

SUPPLY.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. Lowther (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Navy Estimates, 1901–2.

A. Motion made, and question proposed, "That 118,625 men and boys be employed for the Sea and Coast Guard Services for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902, including 19,805 Royal Marines."

Commander YOUNG (Berkshire, Wokingham) congratulated the Secretary to the Admiralty on his promise to use every effort to find out who was to blame for the delay in the shipbuilding programme. There had undoubtedly been great delay, and blame must attach to somebody—either the Admiralty or the contractors. He agreed with hon. Members who had declared that the amount of money put apart for shipbuilding was inadequate for the present year if we were to keep up the proportion which would enable our Fleet to meet two foreign fleets at sea. He did not go quite so far as the right hon. Baronet the Member for Forest of Dean, who held that our Fleet should be strong enough to hold its own against any three foreign fleets combined, but he believed that by the end of this year, when the money to be voted had been expended, we should not be in a position to meet even the combined fleets of two Great Powers at sea. We were especially deficient in battleships, only three of which were provided for in the Estimates, whereas we ought to be laying down twelve as compared with other nations.

He had to congratulate the hon. Gentleman also on his statement with regard to the Belleville boilers. The hon. Gentleman declared that the Admiralty would not bring the ships into the yards in order to remove the boilers, and probably most hon. Members would be satisfied by the remarks of the Member for South Antrim, that if proper stokers were employed we should be able to get good results from the ships with Belleville boilers, until the Admiralty could come to a conclusion as to which was the best boiler to adopt. There would have been a scare in the country if the Secretary to the Admiralty had not made his declaration last night. There was not the least doubt about it that for military purposes the water-tube boiler must be the boiler for the Navy in the future. We should not be able to blockade our enemies' ports in the same way as Nelson used to; we should instead keep our big battleships at convenient ports and maintain communication by means of wire and fast cruisers, which could be told off to watch the enemy. And it would consequently be necessary for our battleships to be able to raise steam at short notice, so as to go out and meet the enemy. He trusted and believed that the difficulties with regard to water-tube boilers would in due course be overcome.

He wished to ask the Admiralty to give serious consideration to the question raised by the hon. Members opposite with regard to the appointment of Roman

Catholic chaplains to our flagships. While he could not support the Amendment that had been moved on Thursday, he certainly agreed with the principle embodied in it, namely, that there should be a Roman Catholic chaplain with every fleet. It might be argued that on many of our smaller ships it was impossible to carry any chaplain at all. Well, he knew from experience the disadvantage of being without a chaplain. He had been a long time on small ships, and had to act as chaplain, and he was sorry to say he was a failure in that capacity; it was one of the instances where the "handy man" did not rise to the occasion. Complaint had been made by an hon. Member opposite that Roman Catholics in some of the ships anchored off the coast of Ireland had not been allowed to go ashore for religious ministrations. That probably was correct. But was not the refusal most likely due to the fact that the Naval Manœuvres were in progress, or that there was a fear that the men might fail to re-join their ships? He had seen men sent ashore on Sunday in very unsuitable weather. On board ships on that day it was customary to wear their best Sunday clothes, and when Roman Catholics and men of other denominations had to go ashore to obtain religious ministrations when it was blowing hard he very much doubted if the attendant circumstances put them in a proper frame of mind for listening to their chaplains. He could not see what objection there possibly could be to the appointment of Roman Catholic chaplains except one, and that was the difficulty of finding accommodation. But surely in our large battleships room could be found for one Roman Catholic chaplain, and he ventured to assert that if only a trial were made the difficulty as to accommodation would soon disappear.

The hon. and gallant Member for Great Yarmouth brought forward the other night the question of the education and training of naval officers. He agreed with every word uttered by the hon. and gallant Gentleman, and he certainly held that a strong Committee ought to be appointed to deal with the question. His opinion was that we took youngsters into the Navy at too old an age. Their general education should be paid more attention to. Classics need not be insisted upon so much, but a knowledge of foreign languages, especially French and German, and of international law, should be imparted to all our officers. The hon. and gallant Member had referred to the differences of opinion which existed among naval officers on this subject. Undoubtedly there were differences. Sir M. Culme-Seymour on the one hand, and Admiral Nicholson on the other, entertained entirely different opinions, and it was, therefore, desirable that a Committee should be formed as soon as possible to go into the whole question. What was necessary was that our officers should master the details of gunnery and be able to handle their ships; that they should understand torpedo work and submarine boats, and, if that were done, a great deal of theoretical teaching might be dispensed with.

He had a few words to say with regard to the status of warrant officers. He could approach this question in an impartial spirit, because he represented what was practically an agricultural constituency, and his views, as well as those of his shipmates in the Navy, on that particular question would not carry much weight with his constituents. These warrant officers were, in his opinion, the backbone of the Service. He knew that the Secretary to the Admiralty was willing to do all he possibly could for them. He had shown that willingness in the past, but, of course, occupying the position he now did, he could scarcely be expected to act right up to his declarations. Still, it might be hoped that he would be able to carry out many of those reforms he had so eloquently urged on the floor of the House. His suggestion was that a chief warrant officer, after three years service, should be given the honorary rank of lieutenant, and he believed that if that were done the effect would be to attract a better class of youngsters into the Navy, because they would realise that, after eighteen or twenty years service, they would get a chance of promotion to commissioned rank. He was of opinion also that it would be a good thing for the Navy if some of the junior warrant officers were promoted to the rank of lieutenant and put into ships to serve in that capacity. There were, he knew, great difficulties in the way of doing that. But he believed they could be overcome if only admirals and captains of our Navy would recognise that in the young warrant officer there was good material, which justified raising him to the higher rank. These men should be picked out and sent to Greenwich, and should have opportunities afforded them of studying gunnery and torpedo practice. Such a policy would stimulate the wish of the parents to send their children into the Navy, and would thus do the Service great good. He had never heard any of his shipmates offer objection to such a proposal. There were other matters in regard to warrant officers upon which he proposed to speak when the Votes particularly affecting them were under considera-tion.

One other subject he should like to say a few words upon, and that was the question of the leave of officers. Officers who had been abroad a great number of years were only allowed, when they got home, a fortnight's leave for each whole year of service in, probably, some wretched climate. Now that was not sufficient, and he would urge that the period should be increased. But that was not the whole difficulty. It not infrequently happened that when an officer came home after three years foreign service, and started off on his six weeks leave, he was, at the end of a fortnight, appointed to another ship and at once sent out to a foreign station, thereby losing the month's leave to which he was entitled. He would ask that that leave should be allowed to stand to his credit when he came home from the next cruise, and added to the fresh leave which he had thereby earned.

He would like to ask further if it were not possible to make better arrangements for the watering of our battleships, both at home and abroad. Would it not be advisable that water tank ships should accompany a fleet, so that when the vessels came to anchor all the fires could be put out, and the engineers and stokers be given a free hand to devote their whole attention to the cleaning of the engines, instead of having to keep a certain number of boilers going for condensing purposes? There were other matters, especially in regard to naval engineers, upon which he hoped to say a few words upon some future occasion, but he would not now further detain the Committee.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick) said he had listened with great pleasure to the speech which had just been delivered. The hon. and gallant Gentleman had spoken about the disabilities of Roman Catholic seamen, and he hoped that the officials of the Admiralty would take cognisance of his remarks, based as they were upon practical experience. The time had arrived when the Admiralty should get rid of the disabilities under which Roman Catholic sailors suffered, and should appoint at least one priest to every squadron. He wished to say a few words in regard to the claims of Ireland to enjoy some share of the expenditure of the Royal Navy. He came from a harbour which could shelter the whole British Navy—he referred to the Shannon. He was not proposing to put forward any claim on behalf of the Shannon for the establishment of a dockyard there, because he doubted if any practical good could result therefrom. But he did intend to advocate the claim of the fisheries of Ireland to be protected against poaching. It had often been reported that in various places on the Irish coast, and in the estuaries of the rivers, poaching was largely carried on, especially by French mackerel fishermen, and surely it was not asking too much that a sufficient number of small gunboats should be detailed to patrol the coast of Ireland, in order to put a stop to those illegal practices. During the past ten or twelve years the salmon and trout fisheries of Ireland had deteriorated very seriously, and the cause of the deterioration was undoubtedly the poaching carried on by steam and sailing trawlers and French mackerel fishermen. Was it not time that such a large, hardworking and deserving class of the community, such as the Irish fishermen undoubtedly were, had their interests protected as much as possible by the Navy, towards the maintenance of which Ireland undoubtedly paid more than its fair proportion. He hoped they would have some assurance from the representative of the Admiralty that that protection would be afforded, and that some gunboats, of which there were plenty, should be detailed to patrol the Irish coast. It could not be denied that that was a most reasonable suggestion.

MR. PENN (Lewisham) said he wished to congratulate his hon. friend on the appointment of a Committee to see whether the work of naval construction could in any way be accelerated. He understood that the hon. Gentleman had invited the contractors for both ships and engines to attend before the Committee, and to give it their views, so that it might be enabled to suggest to the Admiralty officials some mode by which the work could be pushed forward. He believed the result would be largely to get over the difficulty which now prevented our shipbuilding progressing so rapidly as in former years. It appeared to him that a somewhat false standard had been set up in regard to this matter of the construction of ships, on account of the racing against each other by certain dockyards. Although one ship might be turned out at great speed it was possible that other ships in the same dockyard were delayed for the purpose.

With regard to the Report of the Boilers Committee, there were many suggestions in it which appeared to him to be exceedingly valuable, and there was one point which he believed had not been touched upon by any previous speaker. The Committee recognised the possibility of a combination of boilers in the same ship. In many foreign navies, and notably the German, that combination already obtained. The Committee pointed out that it might be desirable to combine two types of water-tube boilers in the same vessel. That was a very valuable admission. Reference to the Report showed that the small tube boiler was not that very fragile or short-lived thing which it was supposed to be. The "Pelorus" was referred to in the Report of the Committee. It had been in commission for three years, doing duty with the Channel Squadron. The "Pactolus," too, which was fitted with small tube boilers, was commissioned at Christmas, 1898, and, after serving one commission again resumed active duty with the Fleet after only a very slight overhaul. He believed it had been found that the small water-tube boilers in these vessels had given very satisfactory results, and that they were not so liable to trouble as boilers of the Belleville type, because the circulation was infinitely quicker and the risk of damage from deposits to the tube infinitely less. He saw that the Committee had recommended a trial of the Yarrow large tube boiler, and he certainly should watch with the greatest interest trials with boilers of this type. It had been suggested that the Admiralty should take out the Belleville boilers already fitted in His Majesty's ships, and replace them with cylindrical boilers. That appeared to him to be a very dangerous and retrograde policy, because in order to do that they would have to take up the decks and to interfere with machinery specially designed for working those boilers. The results obtained would inevitably be less satisfactory, and for this reason—the machinery was designed to carry steam at 250 lbs., and if they put in cylindrical boilers he very much doubted if they would be able to get them to run at that pressure. They would also find that the space occupied by the boilers would be so great that it would inevitably reduce the steaming value of the ship. He would suggest, as an alternative, that they substituted the small tube boiler for the Belleville type, instead of introducing the cylindrical type. This was a question, however, with which the Committee were thoroughly competent to deal. The Report which had been issued was only an interim report, and he believed that the final Report would be of the greatest possible value to the Navy. He had never been a friend of the Belleville boiler, but he had always held that some kind of water-tube boiler would have to be used in the future, and he believed that the Committee would be enabled to decide upon the best type.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick) said he had no intention of debating Belleville boilers, construction or discipline, but he desired to direct the attention of the Committee to certain points which affected Irish interests. Having some knowledge of and taking an interest in the fishing industries, he supported the view of the hon. Member for Limerick, and could substantiate his statements that the steam trawlers encroached within the legal bounds, interfering with spawning grounds and destroying young fish by the million. Gunboats for protection were placed around the coasts of England and Scotland, but although frequent applications were made, it was difficult, if not impossible, to obtain them for Ireland. He had made several applications, and asked questions regarding Dublin and Galway, but little practical result followed. In this connection, too, it might be useful for the Committee to know that it was also very hard sometimes to obtain the co-operation of the coastguards, who should be further utilised for the protection of fisheries around the Irish coast. But if gunboats could not be obtained for the protection of fisheries, they were available to assist evictions. Some years since a gunboat was sent to an eviction in the west of Ireland. She was wrecked upon the expedition—possibly a just retribution, and a lesson to the Admiralty. He therefore hoped that no more gunboats would be employed at evictions, but that they would be obtainable for the protection of Irish fisheries. He entirely agreed with the hon. Member for Wokingham that Roman Catholic chaplains should be granted in the Navy. From every point of view the demand was reasonable, and its necessity obvious.

But his main object in rising was to express the opinion of the Irish people upon the vital and important issue in this matter. Ireland was overtaxed, as the Report of the Financial Relations Commission proved, and as a member of the Irish Financial Reform League he was aware that a strong feeling existed amongst all sections of politicians on this over-taxation grievance. Part of this Irish taxation was levied to support the British Navy, which was used to defend this country, and to protect the British Mercantile Marine. Now, what were the functions of the British Mercantile Marine? They were to pour into Great Britain from all parts of the world food products, to enter into competition with Ireland, an agricultural country, under what is called free trade—which is really a policy of free imports; that is to say, Ireland is taxed to maintain competition with her products. He always argued that taxation was not in itself an evil, provided always it returned in some way to those who paid it; but in this instance the money was exported from Ireland, and never returned through any channel whatever. English and Scotch Members could vote this money with a light heart, because it came back somehow to their respective countries, but Ireland was a notable exception. Let the Committee examine the facts. The proposed expenditure amounted to thirty-two millions, or a sum almost equal to that expended on the navies of France, Germany, and the United States. Of this thirty-two millions Ireland, under existing fiscal arrangements, would have to provide about three millions sterling. What were the Irish taxpayers to receive in return? Almost nothing. In the victualling and clothing department £2,390,000 were to be spent. How much of it would go to Ireland? Very little, if any, money or contracts. If he was correctly informed, the pork contract was for Danish pork, and the beef contract for American beef, for the greater portion of the supplies. There were no biscuits supplied from Ireland, although Jacobs, in his own constituency, was one of the largest biscuit manufacturers in the three kingdoms. No clothing nor outfit of any kind whatever. No construction—Belfast and Londonderry were ignored. No repairs. Even from Haulbowline ships were towed away to be repaired in the south of England. Some time since he asked questions about a disabled vessel which arrived at Queenstown, and almost foundered when being towed across the Channel. This was Admiralty practice in Ireland. He had been lately to Castletown, Berehaven, one of the finest harbours in the world, where the Fleet often anchors. Had there been any local expenditure? No, not as much as a boat-slip or pier was constructed. Fortifications had been dug out and guns concealed, but the work was done by the Army Sapper Corps, and the native residents were not much employed. As the Irish producers—manufacturers and labourers—were almost entirely excluded from this Naval Vote, he most emphatically was against this enormous and increasing expenditure, as opposed to Irish interests, because neither custom, nor money, nor labour came to Ireland. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would definitely reply to the points he had raised. In conclusion, he suggested that at least three million pounds be expended during the current year in Ireland for produce and labour, as a recoup for the over-taxation extracted from an already impoverished country.

MR. PLATT-HIGGINS (Salford, N.) desired to call attention to the inadequate number and position of the engineering branch of the Navy. From the Memorandum just issued by the Admiralty, it appeared that they had this year appointed 287 additional officers, but of that number only twenty-one were engineer officers. The question arose—was that increase of twenty-one even adequate in proportion to the increase in horse-power? From a Return issued in 1898 it appeared that in 1888 the Admiralty complement of engineer officers was 662, but that was previous to the introduction of the water-tube boiler, and it might be considered that in that year the engineers had few duties connected with the stokehole. The indicated horse-power of the Navy to-day was about three times that of 1888, therefore three times as many engineer officers were required, but instead of there being 1,986 engineer officers, as there should be, we had only 962, a deficit of 1,000 according to the Admiralty standard of 1888! It might possibly be argued that the increase of horse-power did not necessarily imply a corresponding increase of engineer officers, but that contention was entirely upset by the introduction of the water-tube boilers, which placed a large amount of extra work upon the engineer officers.

The present complements of engineer officers were quite inadequate, as was shown on the trials of large cruisers, when it was found necessary to largely supplement them. Much the same thing might be said with regard to the stokers. He had ascertained that the number of stokers required to man the Navy on half-boiler power, according to the Admiralty scale, was 29,000, and what proportion did that scale bear to the number of stokers required in time of war? The "Formidable," with a complement of 143 stokers, had no fewer than 197 stokers on her trial trip, or an increase of 40 per cent., and the "Cressy," with a complement of 182, had 258 stokers on her trial trip. It almost seemed to show that 40 per cent. must be added to the Admiralty complement. He was sorry that the Admiralty seemed to be going backwards on even their present inadequate scale. For instance, although the "King Alfred" was a sister ship to the "Powerful," and had 5,000 horse-power more, yet the Admiralty complement was thirty stokers less than that of the "Powerful." He had said that the Navy required 29,000 stokers to man our ships for half-boiler power, but if we wished to bring them up to full power, and also to prepare for contingencies such as sickness, we must add 50 per cent., which would raise the 29,000 to 44,000 stokers, adequately to man our men-of-war in time of war. Allowing for the fact that in times of peace only about three-fifths of our ships were in commission, we wanted 26,000 stokers for the ships in commission to-day, but we had only 21,000. Therefore, we were 1,000 officers and 5,000 stokers short. Why was there this dearth of engineer officers? It was not so much the want of money as that we could not get them. The position of the engineer officers was entirely inadequate. The Admiralty was reduced to the necessity of advertising in the engineering papers for temporary or emergency officers who were of a far inferior standard to those who had passed through the course at Keyham, and this must be very injurious to the service. It had been said that other nations had this same difficulty in regard to reconciling the position of their engineer officers with the executive branch, but why should not this country be the first to obtain the advantages of recognising that the centre of gravity of a war ship was shifting from above deck to below deck, and that it is the man who keeps the ship in speed we must look after, therefore he hoped the Secretary to the Admiralty would see his way to a more adequate recognition of the position of the engineer officers.

*MR. FENWICK (Northumberland, Wansbeck) said it would be interesting to know when this cumulative expenditure on the Navy might be expected to cease. He was not interested in the question of water-tube boilers; his interest lay in some of the human machinery used in the Navy. He joined in the appeal that had just been made on behalf of the engineers and particularly of the men who manned our ships below the decks. He thought the two things which lay at the root of the difficulty of procuring engineers were money and fair treatment. The Admiralty had considerable difficulty in attracting good engineers and artificers to the Navy for the reason that the Service was not made sufficiently attractive to induce artificers to join. Engineer artificers were very intelligent and highly skilled artisans, and they had to pass a very severe examination as to their skill and physical fitness before they were accepted and enrolled in the Service. These men trained in the Navy would cost the country £200 per man before they reached the stage of efficiency attained by engine-room artificers when they entered the Navy. That was the sum which these men had spent upon their education before joining the Service, and what inducements were offered in the shape of pay ?—5s. 6d. a day! That rate of pay was fixed eighteen years ago, and since that time the wages in private engineering shops had increased 15 or 20 per cent. He was of opinion that when the rate of pay was fixed it was fixed far below what ought to have been given, and it ought to be increased. If the rate of pay was increased the Navy would obtain all the men they required. With regard to increase in rank to that of a warrant officer, it seemed to him absurd that a man should be required to have reached thirty-five years of age as well as have ten years confirmed service to his credit before he was entitled to take his higher rating. Ten years service was sufficient without penalising a man by compelling him to wait until he was twenty-five years of age before he could commence to qualify. If that condition was removed younger and more efficient men would be attracted to the Navy, and that was what the Service required. He therefore recommended the abolition of the age limit and the retention only of the ten years confirmed service. The retiring pensions, also, were disproportionate to the wages earned by the artificers, and he hoped the hon. Gentleman would be able to see his way to make some concession in regard to that matter.

*THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.) thought that the view which had been expressed in the course of the discussion that the money for the Shipbuilding Vote was not sufficient was hardly the view which the Committee would be inclined to take. He expressed his appreciation of the valuable services of the warrant officers, and said that they had no more ardent champions than the officers of the Navy. The hon. and gallant Member for Wokingham had said that the opinion of naval officers coincided with his own. Had there been unanimity of opinion among naval officers, the matter would have been dealt with long ago. It was because there was at present a difference among the superior officers of the Navy with regard to the way this question should be dealt with that there had not been any conclusion arrived at such as that suggested. It was not clear that any great boon would be conferred on the warrant officers by making it a condition that they should receive commissioned rank. There were many circumstances which differentiated the warrant officers from the quartermasters in the Army. The quartermaster was very often an elderly man with a wife and family, and he lived amid his own domestic surroundings. There was no similar opportunity for the warrant officer, who received his commission and had to take his place late in life in the wardroom, which was the sole social establishment on board a ship-of-war. They must look rather in the direction of supplying adequate inducements on shore for warrant officers of long service and tried capacity. Pledges had been given on this matter which must be carried out. A Committee was now considering the question, and he hoped that the inquiry would result in some advantages to the warrant officers. The whole subject was engaging the attention of the Admiralty.

Hon. Members from Ireland drew attention to the protection of the fisheries. It was not the case to say nothing was done for the protection of Irish fisheries. A torpedo gunboat, two steam cruisers, and two sailing cruisers were detached by the Admiralty for the purpose, and lately an arrangement had been made by the Irish Government to equip a special cruiser. The Admiralty did not pretend in any part of the United Kingdom to superintend the fisheries or to enforce the bye-laws of any local authority, but it did undertake to protect all fisheries of the United Kingdom as far as possible from any encroachment by foreign fishermen. Complaint had been made of the inadequacy of Admiralty expenditure in Ireland. The hon. Member for the St. Patrick Division of Dublin had alluded to the lack of expenditure for construction in Ireland. But the Admiralty was not to blame for any slackness in shipbuilding. The hon. Gentleman had suggested that facilities should be given for the building and repairing of ships in Ireland. If the Department should receive tenders from Galway or Derry to build a battleship for the Navy, he would undertake to see that the Admiralty afforded every chance of success. As a matter of fact, however, the amount of Admiralty expenditure in Ireland was underrated. Some years ago, he believed, the expenditure was estimated to amount to nearly half a million, and the expenditure at the present time must be larger. More had been done in the last few years to make Haulbowline a well-equipped and effective dockyard than had been the case for many years past. The expenditure there had largely increased, and the *personnel* had increased likewise. But in addition to the increased expenditure there was a constant expenditure going on by reason of the visits of the Channel Fleet and the presence of another guardship on the Irish coast.

It was said that the Admiralty had been misinformed with reference to the engineer officers of the Navy, the engine-room artificers, and the stokers. He declared that there was no shortage in respect of engine-room artificers at the present time. He took full cognisance of the statements on this subjeet from the hon. Member for the Wansbeck Division. With regard to engineers, he had made himself acquainted with the discussions which had taken place at their representative institutions, and no one could read these discussions without feeling the difficulties of the question. It was a question which must engage the attention of the Admiralty. Only last year a concession was made to engineers in the Navy, and this he believed had been accepted as some amelioration of their position. He wished that requests on their behalf were put in a more definite form. It was asked that engineer officers should be given executive rank, and with one exception this had not been found possible in any foreign Navy. That was not a reason against it, but it was an argument they had to consider. It was said that they must give executive authority to the engineers over their men. That proposal was based on a false analogy. It was suggested that an engineer officer could not punish the men under his command for breaches of discipline, but no more could a lieutenant in command of a turret. It was a standing rule in the Navy that on punishment could be inflicted until twenty-four hours after the offence had been committed, and it could only be inflicted by the captain of the ship or the officer he had deputed for the purpose. There was no injustice that he could see done to the engineer officer. With regard to the question of engineers being allowed to sit on courts-martial, his view was that if the Admiralty should see their way to agree to this proposal at any time it would be much wiser and more satisfactory to allow engineers to sit as naval officers, and not as engineers. Another point which he knew had engaged attention was the failure of a large number of engineers to reach the highest branch of the profession; that was to say, promotion of engineer officers to the higher grades must of necessity be arrested at a certain point short of executive command. He did not see how that difficulty was to be got over wholly. It had been got over in part. There had been a considerable addition made to the number in the higher ranks which engineers were capable of attaining. Whether that number could be increased he did not know. One great experiment was being made with regard to engineers, namely, in the United States. The idea was to enter all officers for deck service and for engine-room service indifferently, and to appoint them to either of these services. That was an experiment which would be most interesting and instructive. He was told that up to the present moment the experiment had not succeeded, and they might not get from that all the lessons they would have liked to get. The condition of things was not altogether satisfactory, and they ought to make an attempt to improve matters, for they could not exaggerate the importance of the engineering branch of the Service. It was an importance which had greatly increased, and he believed anything that could be done to ameliorate the condition of the engineer officers consistently with the interests of the Navy ought to be done. He did not believe that the full weight of criticism in this matter came from the engineers themselves. He did not find evidence of that. On the contrary, he found that there were very varied opinions, but, as he had stated before, this was a matter which ought to receive the consideration it deserved. If hon. Members would grapple a little more closely with the difficulties of the question, and would submit proposals not incompatible with the interests of the Service, such proposals would receive from the Board of Admiralty all the attention they deserved. All that had been said in reference to engine-room artificers and the question of qualifying age for warrant officers deserved careful consideration. It was not in his power to give any pledge, but the matter should be referred to the Board. In regard to pensions, he was fully sensible of the importance of the remarks made, and no opportunity should be lost for giving them full consideration.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.) suggested that at this point it might be convenient to the Committee to take Vote A. The general discussion might equally range over Vote 1.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee) saw no convenience in this, and it might be that a specific Amendment might be raised on Vote 1.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR was quite ready to consult the general convenience, but it might be understood that at the end of the discussion the two Votes should be taken.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) said that so far as the Irish Members were concerned they were only anxious to adopt whatever course would be most convenient. It seemed to him that a general discussion such as was now proceeding might be out of order on Vote 1 if a specific Amendment were moved. He suggested that it would be better to go on with Vote A until matters of general interest had been disposed of.

MR. KEARLEY (Devonport) said they all recognised the enormous advantage of having in the Secretary to the Admiralty a gentleman who had a thorough and comprehensive knowledge of every question brought up, and who was able to deal with it instantly and satisfactorily. That was a matter which they could fully appreciate. Whatever might have been the advantages in the past of having a round man in a square hole, they at all events on this occasion had the right man in the right place. The hon. Member had replied to some observations made by the hon. and gallant Member for the Wokingham Division in regard to the treatment of warrant officers. The hon. and gallant Member said that young men of the lower deck who showed special aptitude should be taken in hand then and there by the Admiralty and sent to Greenwich, and given every opportunity of training and education, so that they could have access to the commissioned ranks. Of course, hon. Members knew that the opportunity now came rather late. A man was married and had a family, and consequently it was very difficult for him to uphold the position. But it did seem wrong, in his judgment, that the whole of the lower deck of the Navy should be shut out from the opportunity of attaining the higher ranks of the Navy. They had heard in connection with the war in South Africa that the officers there had not proved what the country might have anticipated. A good many disasters had resulted from bad leading. There had been social barriers interposed under which men in the lower ranks could not attain the higher. He was perfectly certain that the country would find sooner or later that it had made a serious mistake. The hon. Gentleman the Secretary to the Admiralty had made one step forward when he recalled the numerous pledges in regard to the finding of positions for warrant officers given by both administrations extending over a period of ten years. He hoped these pledges would now bear fruit, and that in the hands of the Secretary to the Admiralty they would no longer have a long series of these pledges, but some practical proposal during the current year.

In regard to the engine-room complement, there had been some weighty and powerful speeches by gentlemen who prefaced their remarks with the observation that they were perfectly free and independent, and that they did not represent an interest, and so on. He thought the suggestion was that those who did represent the naval interests were supposed to be under some taint, and that they did not speak with absolutely free minds. He must absolutely deny the soft impeachment. Some hon. Members did represent these men, but they were just as much entitled to speak for them as an agricultural Member was to speak in favour of agriculturists. At all events, these Members were rather late in the field. His hon. friends and himself had been bringing forward these questions for the last nine years, and they were very glad to have the assistance of others, but nevertheless they recognised that it was their duty to bring these questions before the House on behalf of their constituents. He personally brought them forward because he took a great interest in all questions affecting the Navy. The Secretary to the Admiralty in his reply told them that there was no dearth of engine-room artificers, and that, indeed, last year the Admiralty had to stop recruiting. That seemed a strange thing when they considered that they had permanently reduced the engine-room complements, and that at the present moment they could not mobilise the Fleet for war. Two years ago, when they mobilised for the Manœuvres, they had only one-third of the complement according to the mobilisation scheme, and they had to denude the harbour ships to find men to make up that one-third. It seemed strange to him that they were in such an unfortunate position. Whether that was so or not, certainly with regard to engine-room artificers there was a most woeful lack of skilled rating. The Admiralty, under Mr. Goschen, resorted to all sorts of expedients to get over the difficulty. He took offence at the fact that the trades unions of the country were boycotting the Navy because the Admiralty would not accord to the men the treatment which the trades unions said they were entitled to outside the Navy. The present Secretary to the Admiralty had been very fair, for he had recognised the importance of those questions affecting the warrant officers, engine-room artificers, and engineers. He thought the hon. Member would find before long that it would be a cheaper operation to give these men a better status, both with regard to rank and pay, than they at present enjoyed.

During the nine years he had been in the House he had had the pleasure of voting for Roman Catholic chaplains in the Fleet.

With regard to the question of courts-martial, he pointed out that under Clause 58 of the Navy Discipline Act executive engineer officers were not entitled to sit on these courts, and he urged that it would only be fair if when a member of the engine-room staff was to be tried by court-martial one of his class should be on it. The present was a manifestly unfair arrangement, and he suggested that Clause 58 required alteration. He had a special reason to give why it should be altered. Pledges given in the House were supposed to count for something. When First Lord of the Admiralty the Secretary of State for India gave an absolute and definite pledge in this House in 1891 to Sir John Pope Henessey, who brought the matter forward, that the arrengement should be altered. The noble Lord said the Naval Lords did not agree with him, but he thought it was right, and he promised that the concession should be made.

Last summer the Admiralty appointed a Departmental Committee to deal with the question of victualling for the Navy. He appeared before the Committee in July last and gave evidence, and he thought the time had now arrived when they should have some statement as to the outcome of the deliberations. Their complaint was that the variety of the food in the Navy was deficient. Nobody suggested for a moment that the quantity was deficient, because having illustrations of the good physique of the men of the Navy it was impossible to suggest that they were being starved. The food continued on the basis established a quarter of a century ago, and the standard of living in the country had enormously improved since then. The men were compelled, as it were, to supplement the dietary by making purchases in the canteen.

It was estimated that this represented a drain of 30s. a month on the pay of the men. They were served with dry bread and cheese, but no butter or milk, and they did not get preserves. It was a dietary altogether out of date. Another point raised was with regard to the meal hours. They were most antiquated and ludicrous — breakfast was at eight o'clock, dinner at twelve, and what was called supper at four. That was the last meal a man got until the morning came round again. He knew there was an option exercised of making an additional issue under certain circumstances of half a pint of cocoa, but the system was altogether wrong under which the last meal was at four o'clock in the afternoon. He did not want to go into too much detail on this question, because he hoped the hon. Member would give them some satisfaction as to what decision had been come to. He wished to say a word as to the management of the canteen. The canteen system was one of which the Admiralty took no particular cognisance. Food was put on board the ship, and the men were exploited right and left with high prices. Contractors got the business, but he could not see why the Admiralty should not carry on these canteens themselves, and sell articles at practically cost price. He suggested that the Admiralty should set up in various ports cold storage depôts, so that there would be more fresh food served out to the Navy. These depôts might be set up at Hong Kong, Malta, Esquimault, and Sydney. These were coaling stations where the fleet congregated.

He was glad that the Admiralty were encouraging men who showed a special aptitude for gunnery, and that they were recognising the Marines on board ship. But he did not see why a marine should only be paid an additional 1d. per day for holding the same qualification which a seaman-gunner held, and for which he got 3d. per day. It was most important that the gunners should have every encouragement. However good a ship might be, and however good the officers and crew to bring the ship within striking distance, the gunner had the last word. They knew what good sighting meant in the war between the Americans and the Spanish. The Americans mowed the Spanish down because they had good gunners.

He wished to know whether the pledge given by Mr. Goschen last year, that the whole question of labour should be taken into consideration, was in course of being carried out. The standard rate of pay in Government establishments was far below that prevailing in outside employment. At the time of the General Election the First Lord of the Treasury gave on behalf of his party a definite promise that fair wages would be paid to Government workmen. The question of pensions affecting chief petty officers and engine-room artificers had been referred to, and the Secretary to the Admiralty said that all pensions were based on the rating held in the service, and that the men had not very much to complain about, as they were pensioned on their rating. That was what he should like him to inquire into, because an engine-room artificer held during the time he was serving the rating of chief petty officer, but when he went into retirement he was not pensioned on that rating at all. He was pensioned on a rating which he did not hold—that of first-class petty officer. It worked out in this way. Although this was a skilled man, who came to them with his skill which did not cost the Admiralty anything, after having qualified himself at some other body's expense, and although they must give him a high rate of pay as a skilled artisan, they sent him out of the service in twenty-two years, or what not, and they gave him a pension altogether disproportionate to the rate of pay drawn when he was serving. The grievance with regard to the petty officers of the second branch was that they could not hold a higher rating and were pensioned at the lower rating. This was a question which had been discussed over and over again. Lord Charles Beresford made a rather inflammatory speech against the hesitation of the Admiralty to grant what was generally recognised throughout the whole Navy as a concession that ought to be made. The hon. Member hoped that now they would receive a more definite offer.

Mr. FFRENCH (Wexford, S.) complained that the fishery off the coast of

Wexford, which a few years ago was valuable and remunerative, had, owing to the incursions of steam trawlers from Bristol, Milford, and other places, been rendered almost worthless to the Wexford fishermen. Some time ago the names of the steam trawlers were actually secured and forwarded to the proper authorities, but the Government refused to prosecute, on the ground that the captain and crews could not be identified. It would, however, have been a very easy matter, having obtained the name of the vessel, to find out the captain and crew. For three years he had repeatedly asked for a gunboat or a sloop-of-war to protect, not only the Wexford fishery, but the Irish fisheries generally, but he had always been told that none could be spared. Last year the Vice-President of the Board of Agriculture promised that as soon as the Board got into working order an armed vessel would be procured to patrol Irish waters. That had been done, and some months ago, when the steam trawlers again visited the Wexford coast, the Vice-President sent a gunboat down and caught them in the act of piracy. Only a small grant of money was set apart for the Board of Agriculture, and it was not fair that out of that sum Ireland should have to equip this armed vessel, especially considering that Irishmen paid so much towards the maintenance of the Navy, from which they derived no benefit whatever. Ireland had no commerce or trade to protect. She once had both, but England deprived her of them just as she did of her national Parliament. No doubt it was good policy from the English point of view to strengthen her First Line of defence to keep off foreign invaders. Ireland, however, feared no foreign invaders, as the country had been so impoverished that it would not be worth the while of any nation to take it. Englishmen used to sing, "We've got the ships, we've got the men, and we've got the money too," but now the tune had changed to, "We want the ships, we want the men, and we want the money too." If the Government wanted ships, men, and money, let them tax their own country and self-governing colonies, but not Ireland, which derived no benefit whatever from the expenditure.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.) reminded the Leader of the House that when he was at the Irish Office and a Bill was introduced dealing with steam trawling he induced the Irish Members to withdraw their opposition by an undertaking that ample provision would be made for the protection of the fisheries. They were given to understand that the Admiralty was prepared to back up the right hon. Gentleman's promise, but nothing satisfactory had been done. The hon. Gentleman in charge of the Vote had made out that a certain number of gunboats and cruisers had been placed at the disposal of the Irish Board of Agriculture.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I said that five vessels were supplied by the Admiralty, and that a vessel has been recently supplied by the Admiralty for the protection of the fisheries, but outside the control of the Admiralty.

MR. POWER maintained that the funds at the disposal of the Board of Agriculture were very limited, and it was not fair that out of them this vessel should have to be equipped. The Government should supply more boats for the protection of the Irish fisheries, as the coasts were absolutely infested by these steam trawlers, and owing to the laws being bye-laws instead of general laws damage was being done every day. The hon. Gentleman had given the go-by to the very important question of Catholic chaplains. The Catholic Bishop of Waterford had recently said that if no action was taken by the authorities he should think it his duty to use his influence with the young men in that district to prevent them joining the Naval Reserve, and he would be perfectly justified in so doing. Out of the sum which was now asked for some £2,500,000 would fall upon Ireland, and what would Ireland gain in return in the shape of trade protection? They had very little trade to protect, because it was notorious that by various laws they took good care to crush the trade of Ireland generations ago. He thought some of the great battleships might be built in Ireland instead of simply sending there ships which required repairs.

There was one point to which he particularly desired to call attention. All hon. Members acknowledged that more gunnery practice was required both in the Army and the Navy. Along the coast of Ireland they had naval stations for their

Reserve men, but they knew absolutely nothing of gun practice, although the Naval authorities recognised that this was a most important branch of the Service. He maintained that the most important thing they could do was to teach those Naval Reserve men how to handle a gun, and that could only be done by having targets at sea. In his locality no provision was made for getting out those targets properly, and they could only be used when the weather was calm, and when they did not move about. Such practice as that was very little use; and as they had plenty of southwesterly weather, under present circumstances it was impossible to have gun practice during a good many months. If they provided a small boat-slip at Tramore continual practice could be provided, and he hoped the hon. Gentleman would have a Report made as to whether this could be done, and what the cost would be. Some few years ago the Admiralty decided that they did not think this was necessary, but the number of men in training there had increased very largely since, and they could not have proper practice unless some better accommodation was made. He hoped the hon. Gentleman would consult his own Naval authorities on this subject, for he felt that they would bear him out that what he had suggested was absolutely necessary. A very small expenditure in this direction would enable the Reserves to be drilled properly, whereas under the present condition of things matters were so bad that they could not even launch a boat to put up their target unless the weather was absolutely calm. He commended this suggestion to the favourable consideration of the Admiralty, and he ventured to say that his claim was a very reasonable one.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I beg to move, "That the Question be now put."

AN HON. MEMBER: Why not sit on till Sunday?

MR. JOHN REDMOND: This is not the way to facilitate business.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): On a point of order, I desire to ask whether your attention was called to the fact that before the closure was accepted by you, Mr. Lowther, five or six English Members on the opposite side of the House rose to speak.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY (Yorkshire, Shipley): On a point of order, Mr. Lowther, I wish to say that that is not so.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: On a point of order I ask, with great respect, whether it is in order for an hon. Gentleman opposite to flatly contradict the statement which I made, when it is within the knowledge of every hon. Member on this side of the House that at least four hon. Gentlemen on the other side rose to speak, including the hon. Member for Great Yarmouth?

*THE CHAIRMAN: I think the denial of the hon. Member might have been couched in more polite language, but I do not think it is unparliamentary to say, "That is not so."

MR. GILHOOLY (Cork Co., W.): Allow me to say that several English Members rose.

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 180; Noes, 94. (Division List No. 91.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
Beach, Rt Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bignold, Arthur
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir J. Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Dewar, T. R. (T'r H'mlets S. Geo.
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dixon-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph C.
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edwd.
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Man'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst

Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Gartit, William
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hn. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Green, Walford D (Wednesbury
Greene, Sir E W (B'ry S Edm'nds
Grenfell, William Henry
Hain, Edward
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (Mid'x
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. Wm.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th)
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath, James (Staffords. N.W.
Henderson, Alexander
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampsd.
Hoare, Sir Samuel (Norwich)
Hobhouse, Hy. (Somerset, E.)
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Horner, Frederick William
Howard, Capt. J (Kent, Faversh
Howard, J. (Mid., Tottenham)
Hozier, Hon. James Hy. Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel, Cap. Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Lawson, John Grant
Lecky, Rt. Hn William Edw. H.
Lee, A. H. (Hants, Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leighton, Stanley
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt Hn Walter (Bristol, S.)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsm'th)
Macartney, Rt Hn W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh W
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H E (Wigton
Maxwell, W. J. (Dumfriesshire)
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Milton, Viscount
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Penn, John
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. F. (Bethnal Green)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H. (Sh'ffi'd
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E (Tauntn
Welby, Sir C. G. E. (Notts.)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Rt Hn J. Powell (Bir.
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C.B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

Tellers for the Ayes—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carew, James Laurence
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir W. (Derby Co.)
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Hammond, John
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Lambert, George
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Markham, Arthur Basil
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Md
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C R (Northants
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Thompson, E. C. (Monaghan, N.
Ure, Alexander
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Wodehouse, Hn. Armine (Essex
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Noes—
Mr. Edward Morton and
Mr. Tennant.

Question put accordingly, "That 118,625 men and boys be employed for the Sea and Coast Guard Services for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902, including 19,805 Royal Marines."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 224; Noes, 54. (Division List No. 92.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John Geo. Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H (Bristol)
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Black, Alexander William
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. C. (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dewar, T. R. (T'r H'mlets, S Geo.
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dimsdale, Sir J. Cockfield
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred. D.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Emmott, Alfred
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fenwick, Charles
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Sir W. (Derby Co.)
Furness, Sir Christopher
Garfit, William
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Green, Walford D (Wednesbury
Greene, Sir E W (B'ry S Edm'nds
Grenfell, William Henry
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Hamilton, Rt. Hn. L'd G (Midd'x
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. C. Seale-
Heath, Arth. Howard (Hanley
Heath, James (Staffords, N. W.
Henderson, Alexander
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hoare, Ed. Brodie (Hampstead
Hoare, Sir Samuel (Norwich)
Hobhouse, H. (Somerset, E.)
Hope, J. F (Sheffield, Brightside
Horner, Frederick William
Howard, Capt. J. (Kent Faversh
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Hozier, Hon. James H. Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Lambert, George
Lawson, John Grant
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lecky, Rt. Hon. Wm. Edw. H.
Lee, A. H. (Hants, Fareh'm)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leighton, Stanley
Leng, Sir John
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J (Portsmouth
Macartney, Rt Hn W. G. Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh W
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Markham, Arthur Basil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H. E (Wigt'n
Maxwell, W J H (Dumfriesshire
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Morton, Ed. J. C. (Devonport)
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Penn, John
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Price, Robert John
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. F. (Bethnal Green)
Rigg, Richard
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, H. S. (Limehouse)
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Capt. John (Forfarsh.)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt Hn C. R (Northants.
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Strachey, Edward
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Ure, Alexander

Valentia, Viscount
Vincent,ColSirCEH.(Sheffield
Walker, Col. William Holl
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Welby, Lt.-Col. ACE(Taunton
Welby, Sir Chas.G.E. (Notts.)

White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams,RtHnJPowell-(Br'm
Wodehouse,Hn.Armine(Essex
Wodehouse,Rt.Hn.E.R (Bath)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt.Hon.C.B.Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas

Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham,William(Cork,N.E.)
Blake, Edward
Boyle, James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carew, James Laurence
Carvill,Patrick Geo.Hamilton
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher

Gilhooly, James
Hammond, John
Hayden, John Patrick
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Leamy, Edmund
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien,Kendal(Tippera'yMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor,James(Wicklow,W.

O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly,James(RoscommonN.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond,John E.(Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Sullivan, Donal
Thompson,E.C.(Monaghan,N.

Tellers for the Noes—Sir Thomas Esmonde and Captain Donelan.

1. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £5,760,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expenses of Wages, etc. to Officers, Seamen and Boys, Coast Guard, and Royal Marines, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

Mr. E. J. C. MORTON (Devonport) said there was a matter which had already been dealt with——

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON : On a point of order, I should like to put a question. Do we understand that the general discussion is being continued on this Vote?

*The CHAIRMAN : The general discussion taken on Vote A. cannot be continued on Vote 1.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND : Surely it is within your recollection, Mr. Lowther, and within the recollection of everybody in the House who was here earlier in the afternoon, that at the time the First Lord of the Treasury asked us to let Vote A pass to come to Vote 1 on the ground that we could have a general discussion on Vote 1, when I suggested that that might possibly not be in order the First Lord of the Treasury shook his head, and from your silence, Mr. Lowther, we were all under the impression that a general discussion could take place on Vote 1. I may be allowed to point out that there are remaining one or two small questions—one of which was raised by almost the last speaker—which have received no answer at all.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR : What subject? Was it about trawling?

Mr. JOHN REDMOND : No, I refer to the question of accommodation at Tramore, in the county of Waterford. As I stated earlier in the afternoon, there is not the slightest desire on these Votes to have anything in the nature of illegitimate or improper discussion. I may say that on this Vote we had determined that five or ten minutes longer would have enabled us to have concluded the discussion on the Vote. If the right hon. Gentleman had not been so precipitate in moving to cut short the debate I think it would have been better from his own point of view, for he would not have imported the heat which he has done into this matter, and he certainly would have ensured that the sitting would not have been indefinitely prolonged. If, contrary to the universal understanding arrived at earlier in the afternoon, we are now to be shut out from the discussion of main topics, so far from facilitating the progress of business, the illegitimate use of the closure will urge every hon. Member on these benches to throw every obstacle in the way.

*The CHAIRMAN : I understand that the hon. Member for Waterford was asking me a question. In reply to the question, certainly it is always possible by agreement between the two sides of the House, with the Chairman giving his consent, to arrange that a discussion shall be taken upon a particular Vote which otherwise might not be in order. I would point out, however, that when the First Lord of the Treasury made that suggestion it was refused by the hon. Member for Dundee sitting on the Front Opposition Bench. As it was refused, and as I was not asked to give my consent, I had no consent to give, and I have, therefore, to follow the ordinary rules of the House.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: As you have referred to my action, Mr. Lowther, I wish to say that if the general discussion is not to be continued on Vote 1, I do not see what is to be gained by this change.

MR. KEARLEY said he understood that the hon. Gentleman would not be permitted to reply on the various subjects which had been raised. The hon. Member in charge of the Vote had given his reply after one and a half hour's discussion. Was it to be understood now that they could have no reply given to the various questions which they had raised, upon the only opportunity which they had had of raising them?

*THE CHAIRMAN: Strictly speaking, any hon. Member who addresses the Committee on this Vote must make his speech relevant to this Vote, but possibly under the circumstances the House would allow the hon. Member in charge of this Vote to reply to the questions which have been raised.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: Does your ruling amount to this—that no further questions of general interest can be raised?

*THE CHAIRMAN: "General interest" opens up rather a big question. I should much rather prefer to rule on each point as it arises. This Vote is a big one, and covers a great deal of ground, and it is possible to bring in a good many subjects within the purview of this Vote. I would rather decide on each particular question as it arises.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I will mention one specific question which has already been touched upon in the general discussion, and which has not been answered adequately by the Government —I refer to the question of providing further facilities, from the Admiralty point of view, of boat stages or piers in certain parts of Ireland. Should I be entitled now to continue that discussion?

*THE CHAIRMAN: I think that would come very properly under works and buildings.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: That is a subject which was in order on Vote A, but is not in order on Vote 1. Therefore I beg to move, Mr. Lowther, that you now report progress, and I do so for the purpose of calling attention to what has occurred. I think the Secretary to the Admiralty, as far as he had the opportunity of doing so, answered the questions put to him in a very fair way. I think the Secretary to the Admiralty will admit that it is an unreasonable thing, especially after what occurred earlier in the afternoon, to deprive us of this opportunity of raising this and similar questions. If, as I said before, we had been permitted to continue this discussion for a quarter of an hour longer, the hon. Gentleman no doubt would have answered the point raised by the hon. Member for East Waterford, and he could have disposed of it in a few sentences. No doubt they would have been of a sympathetic character. By the operation of this rule, which has been brought into play by the Leader of the House, who was not present during the discussion——

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Permit me to say that I was present.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: Then, Sir, if the right hon. Gentleman was present, he deliberately moved the closure to prevent his hon. friend next to him from giving an answer. The right hon. Gentleman will gain nothing by this. Such conduct is absurd and childish, and if he desires to get his Estimates through he should take advantage of the conciliatory spirit shown to him earlier in the afternoon. There was not the slightest intention of prolonging this discussion up to half an hour ago, and everyone present knows that our contributions to this debate were reasonable and to the point, and the proof of this is to be found in the fact that every one of the questions asked met with a sympathetic answer from the Secretary to the Admiralty. The last point mentioned has not met with that sympathetic consideration, because his mouth has been closed by the moving of the closure. It is not only Members on this side of the House who have been closured by this motion, but also Members on the other side. The hon. Member for one of the Divisions of Yorkshire ought to apologise for the flat contradiction—such as I have often heard censured from the Chair—he gave to the statement that some Members rose on that side of the House when the First Lord of the Treasury moved the closure. The contradiction was wrong. Members sitting behind him as well as in front of him rose. The Government will see that in interrupting the amiable and reasonable course of the debate in the way the First Lord of the Treasury has done he is gaining nothing, and he is closing the mouths of hon. Members who wish to raise legitimate discussion. In order to mark the sense of the impropriety and utter unwisdom and stupidity of these proceedings, I beg to move that you now report progress.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report Progress; and ask leave to sit again."—(*Mr. John Redmond.*)

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Member has used many hard words, chiefly directed against me and the course I have adopted, his view being that without the closure we should have got on a little bit better. The hon. Member was not present in the House when I made an appeal to the Committee about half-past one o'clock. I was extremely anxious to come to some amicable arrangement—[Mr. John Redmond: So was I.]—and I am quite sure I said nothing that could injure the susceptibility of the most tender conscience. I then suggested that we should come to a distinct understanding that the debate on the Naval Estimates should finish at some reasonable hour.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND: So it would.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: But the hon. Gentleman did not fall in with that suggestion.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND: The right hon. Gentleman is unintentionally doing me an injustice. I told him so far as Members on this side of the House were concerned that we had no desire to unduly prolong the discussion, nor did we do so. As a matter of fact we had made up our mind to allow Vote A to come to a conclusion within a few minutes of the time the right hon. Gentleman moved the closure.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I am always glad to have communications in a friendly spirit as to the course of business, but I could not in justice to the House allow the discussion to drag on to what might have been an interminable length. I am not attacking hon. Gentlemen opposite, and I am not blaming them. I am only explaining why I, responsible in a measure for the conduct of business, and in no sense desirous of exercising any authority harshly over any section of the House, but having in view the general course of the debate, asked the Committee to conclude the discussion on Vote A and go on to Vote 1, surely not an unreasonable course. The hon. Gentleman said I did that for the purpose of preventing my hon. friend replying to a question put to him. But my hon. friend had no information, and could not have given a reply.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND: He was asked to give an assurance that an inquiry should be made.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Of course my hon. friend will make an inquiry. There need be no anxiety on the part of the hon. Member for East Waterford or any of his hon. friends that because an assurance was not given by my hon. friend the matter will escape his attention. It will not escape his attention. I hope the Committee will now proceed with the remaining business.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: A suggestion made by yourself, Mr. Chairman, a few minutes ago will relieve the Committee from this difficulty. If that suggestion is now acted on, I am sure my hon. friends will meet it in a reasonable spirit.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I have no objection so far as I am concerned.

Sir FORTESCUE FLANNERY: Perhaps as the hon. Member for Waterford has made a personal allusion to myself, I may be allowed to say a word. The allegation was that half a dozen Members on this side of the House had risen. I did not for a moment intend to be rude to the hon. Member for East Clare. What I did desire to indicate was that several hon. Members had matters which they desired to put before the Committee, but having regard to the urgency of business they did not rise to do so. I beg to assure the hon. Member that I had not the smallest intention of showing rudeness to him or to any of his colleagues.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: I wish to be allowed to say that I accept fully the assurance of the hon. Gentleman. As a matter of personal explanation what occurred was this: When the closure was moved five or six English Members got up to speak. On my mentioning that as a fact the hon. Member said it was not true. I accept what he has now said, but I desire to say that I am in a position to prove that at least five, and I believe six, Members stood up. The hon. Member for Great Yarmouth, the hon. Member for Plymouth, two hon. Members sitting behind the hon. Gentleman, and the hon. Member for Devonport, making five, stood up. I am quite sure that the hon. Gentleman will refrain from accusing me of stating what is not true. I quite accept what he has said, and I merely wish to put myself straight with the Committee. I am prepared to fight for my principles, but I have never told lies.

Mr. POWER said he acknowledged that he was intimidated to a certain extent by the presence of the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the House, and was not able to make his statement as clear as he would have wished. He brought under the notice of the Admiralty two specific cases of local interest, and he certainly thought that his hon. friend in moving to report progress was quite within his right, because the matter would not have taken three minutes to explain. He thought the course taken by the right hon. Gentleman would only prolong the debate. The right hon. Gentleman had raised the anger of hon. Members, and his tactics, far from facilitating business, would retard it. He ventured to corroborate the fact that several hon. Members had risen to continue the discussion when the closure was moved.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: My hon. friend is quite prepared to consider the matters referred to.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny) said he supported the motion that progress be reported for the reasons advanced by his hon. friend, and also for another reason. It was very extraordinary to him that hon. Members should be so very reluctant to give a Saturday afternoon to the service of the great Empire about which they boasted so much. His hon. friends were willing to stay, but evidently hon. Members opposite thought more of a Saturday to Monday in the country than of the Empire, and he thought it desirable that progress should be reported in order to enable them to catch their afternoon trains. He could not understand why hon. Members were reluctant to make a sacrifice. They went to great expense to get into the House, and when they got in their whole idea seemed to be to get out of it again. He hoped the motion would be accepted.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 64; Noes, 218. (Division List No. 93.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Blake, Edward
Boyle, James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carew, James Laurence
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Hammond, John
Hayden, John Patrick
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, David Brynmor (Swans'a
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Lambert, George
Layland-Barratt, Francis

Leamy, Edmund
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M‘Dermott, Patrick
M‘Fadden, Edward
M‘Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Morton,Edw.J.C.(Devonport)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipp'ry,Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, J. (Wicklow, W)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon,N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond,John E.(Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Sullivan, Donal
Thompson,E.C.(Monaghan,N.
Ure, Alexander
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Ayes—
Sir Thomas Esmonde and
Captain Donelan.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John Geo. Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour,Rt.Hon.A.J.(Manch'r
Balfour,Rt.Hon.G.W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst,Hon.AllenBenjamin
Beach,Rt.Hn.SirM.H.(Bristol
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Black, Alexander William
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brown, Alex. H. (Shropshire)
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V.C.W.(Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J.(Birm.)
Chamberlain,J.Austen (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb,SirJohnCharlesReady
Colston,Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett,A.Cameron(Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, IrwinEdwardBainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Dewar,T.R(T'rH'mlets,S Geo.
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder,Sir John P.
Dimsdale, Sir JosephCockfield
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Emmott, Alfred
Fellowes,Hon.AilwynEdward
Fenwick, Charles
Fergusson, RtHn.SirJ.(Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finlay, Sir Robt. Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose-
Fitzroy,Hon.EdwardAlgernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Furness, Sir Christopher
Garfit, William
Gorst, Rt.Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon.George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Green,Walford D.(Wednesb'y.
Greene,SirEW(B'ryS Edm'nds
Grenfell, William Henry
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton,RtHnLordG(Middx
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. Wm.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F.Leverton (Tynem'th.
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne, Rt.Hon.Charles Seale-
Heath,ArthurHoward(Hanley
Heath,James(Staffords.,N.W.
Henderson, Alexander
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hoare,Edw.Brodie(Hampst'd)
Hoare, Sir Samuel (Norwich)
Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset,E.
Hope J.F(Sheffield,Brightside
Horner, Frederick William
Howard, Capt. J. (Faversham)
Howard, J. (Midd.,Tottenham
Hozier, Hon.JamesHenryCecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hughes, Colonel Edwin
Hutton, John (Yorks, N. R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Jessel,CaptainHerbertMerton
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Jones,William(Carnarvonsh.
Kenyon,Hon.Geo.T.(Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W.(Salop.
Kimber, Henry
Kinloch,SirJohnGeorgeSmyth
Knowles, Lees
Lawson, John Grant
Lecky,Rt.Hn.WilliamEdwH.
Lee,ArthurH(Hants.Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leighton, Stanley
Lockwood, Lt-Col. A. R.
Long,Rt.HnWalter(Bristol,S.
Loyd, Arthur Kirkman
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth
Macartney,RtHnW.G.Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M‘Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M‘Iver,SirLewis(EdinburghW
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Markham, Arthur Basil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell,RtHnSirH.E(Wigt'n
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriessh.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More,Robt.Jasper(Shropshire)
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton,ArthurH.A.(Deptford
Mount, William Arthur
Murray,RtHnA.Graham(Bute
Murray, Charles J.(Coventry)
Murray, Col.Wyndham(Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Penn, John
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Price, Robert John
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rea, Russell
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renwick, George
Ridley,S.Forde(BethnalGreen
Rigg, Richard
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sandys,Lieut.-Cl.Thos.Myles
Seely,Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.

Shaw-Stewart,M.H. (Renfrew
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair,Capt.John(Forfarsh.)
Smith,AbelH.(Hertford, East)
Smith,JamesParker(Lanarks.
Smith, Hon. W. F. D.(Strand)
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer,RtHnC.R.(Northn'ts.
Stanley,HonArthur(Ormskirk
Stewart,SirMarkJ.M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Strachey, Edward
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas,DavidAlfred(Merthyr
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw.Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Warner, ThomasCourtenayT.
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkney
Welby,Lt.-Col. ACE(Taunton
Welby,Sir CharlesG.E.(Notts.
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams,RtHnJPowell (Birm
Wodehouse,HnArmine (Essex
Wodehouse,RtHn.E.R.(Bath)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley,Rt.Hon.C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther

Original Question again proposed.

MR. E. J. C. MORTON: I desire to refer to a matter which has been already referred to, but the point I wish to bring before the Committee has not previously been brought forward. The question I particularly wish to refer to is one which my hon. friend has already given a certain reply to, but the main question to which I desire to make allusion is the position of warrant officers in the British Navy. In connection with it, may I point out that in my opinion it has not been adequately brought before the Committee. Particularly at the commencement of a new Parliament, I may be allowed to bring forward certain considerations in regard to it, which have not been brought forward in this Parliament, although they have been in previous Parliaments. The point I want to make, and the emphasis I wish to lay on this question, is that it is not only a question mainly of justice to the warrant officers of the Service, it is not merely a question—although that is a wide way of looking at it—that affects the treatment of every rank and rating in the British Navy indirectly, but it is a question of supreme public importance. It is of great importance to the efficiency of the Navy itself, and especially a question which concerns a subject which at any rate used to be regarded as the special constitutional duty of this House—namely, the economic administration of the finances of this country. I do not know whether hon. Members are aware of the fact that throughout the whole history of this country its naval strength has depended entirely on the *personnel* of the Navy. I believe there never was a naval war in which our ships in matters of construction have been superior to the ships of our enemy. We were ridiculously inferior at the time of the Armada, and even down to Trafalgar the best ships in the British Navy were ships taken from the French. The whole strength of the Navy throughout its history has depended on its *personnel*, and therefore it is a matter of supreme importance that we should regard *personnel* as the most important element in our Navy. I would like to ask the attention of the Committee to the fact that it takes twice as long to make a British seaman as to build a first-class battleship. It costs £300 from the moment you first catch the boy until he becomes an ordinary seaman, and even then you do not get the full value out of him that you expect. He begins as an ordinary seaman, after £300 has been expended on him, at an average age of about eighteen years, but you do not get the full value out of him until he becomes an able seaman, at about twenty-one. Then he serves seven years, and at the age of twenty-eight he has his first opportunity of leaving the Navy altogether, or he can re-engage for another ten years. It must be obvious to the Committee that the second ten years are of the greatest value. They are the best years of the man's life, and he is fully competent. Now what happens? From twenty-eight to about thirty-one he has the opportunity of reaching the highest rating open to him—namely, that of warrant officer. He then has to go on for twenty years before he gets the opportunity of a rise at all, and then in a very few cases he becomes what is popularly known as a chief—chief warrant officer, chief gunner, or chief carpenter. He has then a few years of commissioned rank, and he retires with the honorary rank of lieutenant. But practically, with the exception of these very few cases, all men at the age of from twenty-eight to thirty-one find a brick wall across their career, and they have got no further opportunity of advancing. Contrast that with the condition of things in the Army. Will anyone maintain that the rank and file of the Army are superior in training, or education, or ability to the rank and file of the Navy? In the Army we have a special line of promotion, known as the quartermaster's line, which is exclusively for men risen from the ranks, and such men can become lieutenants and captains. In one case I know of, a man who acted as major retired with the rank of colonel, receiving the full value in pay and in every other respect of the rank that he nominally held. What is the result of the present regulation in the Navy? and I ask the attention of the Committee to it. The result is that at the end of the first ten years service, when a man is from twenty-eight to thirty-one, there is a more numerous leakage from the Navy than from any other Service under the Crown. I have the last Return, moved for by myself a year and a half ago. Unfortunately the last year is 1895, but I would like to ask the attention of the Committee to the percentage of men who, having served ten years in the Navy, did not join for a second ten years. The percentage in 1887 was just over 24 per cent., in 1888 just over 32 per cent., in 1889 over 33 per cent., in 1890 over 32 per cent., in 1891 it was exactly 33 per cent., in 1892, 29 per cent., in 1893, 23 per cent., in 1894, 21 per cent., and in 1895 it was again nearly 23 per cent. It should be remembered that every one of these men who did not rejoin cost the nation £300 as an initial charge before any advantage was got out of their services. If, therefore, we could do something to induce a man to rejoin for another ten years who otherwise would not rejoin, we would undoubtedly save half the initial cost, or £150 on every man.

It is pointed out to us and claimed by the warrant officers themselves that what they want is a career such as is offered to the common soldier in the Army. I know perfectly well that we cannot start on exactly the same lines, but we may do something analogous by giving commissioned rank to be exclusively devoted to warrant officers, who would be allotted certain services. You might, for instance, allot the Ordnance Store Department to them, or the management of coaling stations might be handed over to warrant officers with commissioned rank. If you do that I believe you will give a career, which will not only affect the warrant officers, but will loosen promotion all down the ratings of the Navy, and will give the hope of a career to every boy joining the Navy. I wish the Committee to realise what we are losing by not giving such a line of promotion. What becomes of the men who do not rejoin? I remember the reply of a previous Board of Admiralty to me on this point. They said whatever I might say about leakage in the Navy, and the want of a career, at any rate they could say that whereas the Army had a difficulty in recruiting the Navy had no such difficulty. That is no answer whatever. I can well believe that the Navy finds no difficulty in recruiting under existing circumstances. First of all, the Navy is a popular Service in the imagination of every British boy, and in the second place, the parents of a boy know that the whole charge of his education and keep is taken off their hands, that he will be taught a trade at the expense of the nation, and that at the end of ten years, before he is thirty, he can leave the Navy a skilled tradesman—one of the best workmen in the country—who can get work anywhere. Further, in the American Navy, which has no training ships whatever, they are able to pay double the wages to their men that we can afford to pay, and they know that they can man their Navy out of men on whom we have spent £300 per man, and who have served ten years in our Navy. Some fifteen years ago, an agitation was got up in America to start a training ship for the American Navy. The then Secretary of the American Navy, in a public speech, said that they had no need for training ships, because the American Navy could get any amount of the best material in the world—namely, British sailors who had served ten years in the British Navy. It seems to me singularly foolish to waste £300 per man for men for the American Navy, but that need not be done if we would only offer a career to every boy joining our Navy.

I know perfectly well, from previous experience, that no man in this House is more sympathetic in his views than my hon. friend in charge of this Vote. I know also that during the nine years I have been in this House we have had nearly all the naval professional Members sympathetic with the idea of establishing a line of promotion such as I have suggested. We also know that men, including previous First Lords of the Admiralty, gave, as my hon. friend acknowledges, pledges on this question, and yet nothing has been done. I recollect Mr. Goschen replying to me some years ago, and saying that I must surely realise that, inasmuch as nothing had been done, there must be grave reasons against the proposal. It is a curious fact, but we have never been able to get it stated what these reasons are. By a process of exhaustion and not by positive evidence, I have arrived at a conclusion, and that is that the only persons who object are the Naval Lords of the Admiralty. They are the only body that I do not know to be in favour of this proposal. Knowing the sympathy of my hon. friend, and knowing that there exists very grave obstruction in some place or other, I think I am justified in bringing the national importance of this question before the Committee, and putting it on a basis other than justice to the men themselves.

I have only to say, in conclusion, that I hope my hon. friend will say something in his reply on this and the other points that have been raised since he spoke last. I am not going into the arguments over again, because that would be redundancy, and would weary the Committee, but I would specially direct the attention of my hon. friend to the question of the food of the men in the Navy, to which the senior Member for Devonport has already referred in detail. The hon. Member for the Wansbeck Division referred to the engine-room artificers. No doubt there is a conflict of opinion as to the facts in regard to them. The only other point to which I especially wish to direct the attention of my hon. friend, is the question of the wages, particularly of the poorest paid of all—people in the dockyards. Nineteen shillings a week is very inadequate pay for a man engaged on such work. It is the poorest paid men I feel most about, because they are the men who have the least power to bring pressure to bear on their behalf.

But, after all, the principal question which I urge upon the attention of my hon. friend is that of the treatment of warrant officers, and that is a question not only of justice to the men, but of the efficiency of the Fleet, of the economic expenditure of the money voted by this House for the Navy, and of what the nation as a nation owes to these men. There is no more loyal body of men employed by the Government than these warrant officers. I will give an illustration of that. With the full consent of the officers they had carried on an agitation, but the moment the war broke out they announced publicly in their organ—the *Warrant Officer's Gazette*—that until the war was over, they would desist from all agitation for the redress of their grievances. Under these circumstances I think they are a body of men who are worthy of all the support which can be given them, but which at present is denied to them.

MR. COCHRANE (Ayrshire, N.) said he did not often intrude himself on the Committee, especially on Naval questions. However, he had almost a hereditary interest in these matters, for members of his family, for many generations back, had served in the Navy of various monarchs in this country, and possibly more of them had risen to the highest commands in the Service than had come from any other family in the United Kingdom. He had listened with great interest to the speech of his hon. friend below him, in which he had touched on many questions, giving a very well merited word of praise to his hon. and gallant friend the Member for the Wokingham Division, who spoke with all the authority which appertained to an officer who had served twenty years in His Majesty's Navy. There was one question on which the Secretary to the Admiralty had not been decisive, namely, the provision of a Roman Catholic chaplain to each squadron of the Navy. Although he himself was a Scotchman and a Presbyterian, he had considerable sympathy with hon. Members from Ireland in their demands for Catholic chaplains in the Navy. Hon. Members opposite came of a grand fighting race, which had done splendid service in the Army and the Navy. If, as they said, and he believed it was true, they placed very great and exceptional value upon the services of their chaplain in times of accident or illness, as was shown by the picture drawn by his hon. and gallant friend as to what would be done in order to obtain ministrations of a clergyman, then in the interests of the country it was obvious that the Admiralty should grant the request of the hon. Members.

Upon the general question of the Navy, he was not like some Members opposite; he approved entirely of the amount which was being spent on the Navy, and only wished it were more, for he felt that the vital interests of the country were bound up in the Navy. He had a very personal and peculiar interest in the question of boilers. His grandfather, Lord Dundonald, who was known in this House as Lord Cochrane, was the first to advocate the use of steam generated in water-tube boilers in all the vessels in the Navy, and did so with such importunity as was always necessary in order to get the Admiralty to adopt any change. He had been looking up some correspondence which had taken place between his grandfather and Lord Minto, who was First Lord of the Admiralty between 1835 and 1841, after that noble Lord had been relieved from the cares of office, and when he took a very different view of things from what he had done in office. Writing with "greater freedom and less responsibility" in 1842, he said that it had been his intention to have fitted up a frigate with one of Lord Cochrane's engines, with a view to the introduction of occasional steam power in all the ships of the line. Lord Cochrane might wish to steam at a rate of ten miles an hour; his wish was much more humble—something equivalent to five knots an hour. He (the speaker) honestly believed that if it had not been for the action of the Members in this House five knots would have been the normal speed of the ships of the Navy at the present day. Lord Dundonald patented a water-tube boiler in 1843, which the hon. Member opposite, who spoke with great technical knowledge, assured him was the exact prototype of the tubular boilers at present used in the Navy. Lord Dundonald brought this boiler before the naval authorities, and finally the Admiralty commissioned a ship to be built in which to try them. It was found, however, when the ship was built that it was too small for the boilers, and that it could only put to sea in the calmest weather. The boilers had worked splendidly on land, and had given satisfaction to the engineers, but when fitted on board ship they did not come up to expectation, and did not do the work which they ought to have done. Naval officers were a very unsuspicious race as a rule, but the working of the boilers was so extraordinary that when they returned to port the engines were taken to pieces and carefully examined. The engineers wrote a report on the matter to Lord Dundonald, in which they stated that to their astonishment they found in the middle suction pipe an elm plug driven in so hard that they were obliged to cut it out. Of course, any alteration on the ships of the Navy naturally met with considerable opposition, some of it ludicrous; for instance, that which objected to the introduction of steam on the ground that the smoke from the funnels would blacken the sails of the Fleet! He did not pretend to say that the failure of some of the boilers recently was due to any foul play, although it had been suggested that that had been the case. But the new form of boilers now being tried was a modern invention, and engineers who had to deal with them had only been accustomed to work the old form of cylindrical boilers. Water-tube boilers required the most careful handling by highly scientifically trained men to get the best results out of them, and he did not believe that they were being tried in all the ships under the most advantageous circumstances. That was all he intended to imply. His hon. friend had taken the best means to inform himself on the subject, and had called in the assistance of a committee of experts, whose opinion must carry great weight in the House and the country. He only hoped that these water-tube boilers, which had been sixty years before the country, would not be abandoned without sufficient reflection, inquiry, and experience.

He had great sympathy with those hon. Members who urged the claims of engineers to an improvement in their professional position. The engineers had legitimate complaints, and their demands should be conceded. The Victorian Order had recently been distributed on a certain ship, and the engineer, who probably did more work than anybody else on board, was the only officer who did not get an Order.

The question of submarine boats was of the very greatest importance, and he would like to know if the hon. Gentleman the Secretary to the Admiralty could not really furnish the Committee with some definite information in regard to the submarine boats under order. He believed that no submarine boat yet built had been a pronounced success, and he would like to know whether any means had been discovered of steering these boats under the surface. He also wanted to know whether provision had been made for the supply of patent fuel and liquid fuel, for both of these were of great importance.

Mr. GILHOOLY wished to direct attention to an accident which had occurred in Berehaven Harbour on 1st March. A launch was sailing from H.M.S. "Resolution" to Berehaven with a crew composed of boys and a boy officer. The only able seaman on board was the coxswain, a man of long experience, who was steering the boat, which, however, capsized and seven of the crew were drowned. In his opinion there must have been some mismanagement on the part of those in charge of the launch, because Berehaven was one of the safest harbours in the world. No doubt it was a rough day, but was it necessary that these boys should be sent off in a boat in a rough sea in command of only a boy officer? And why were there no life belts provided in the boat? The bodies had not yet been found, and he wanted to know, if they were found, whether the parents of these boys would get them for interment in the county of Cork.

He complained of the insulting and offensive treatment to which Irish sailors were subjected by an officer in charge of the "Collingwood" in Bantry Bay, who talked of Irish seamen as Irish pigs. If they wanted Irishmen to fight their battles either on sea or land they should be treated with ordinary respect and courtesy. He must say that it would be no surprise, if the men were treated in that fashion by aristocratic and ill-conditioned officers, that when they went into action the men would turn and give assistance to the enemy rather than to their officers. He insisted also that gross injustice was done in connection with the expenditure of the Admiralty in Ireland. Squadrons occasionally put into Berehaven, but their necessary supplies were brought over from co-operative stores in England, instead of being bought locally. Another thing was the manifest unfairness of paying the men on board ships which were in an Irish port. It had frequently occurred that, although money was due to the men on a certain day, the payment was postponed until the ship put to sea, in order that the money might be spent in English ports. Moreover, a good many of the Irish sailors required the money in Ireland in order to assist their relatives. The hon. Gentleman had stated from the Treasury Bench that ample provision had been made for the protection of Irish fisheries from illegal trawling, and that a gunboat had been commissioned for this protective work. To his own knowledge several steam beam trawlers from England had made incursions into Bantry Bay. It was true that the "Fly" was sent to watch them, but its speed was not sufficient to keep up with the swift trawlers, which had done very serious injury to the fishermen's nets and lines.

Mr. NOLAN (Louth, S.) said he could have wished that the Secretary to the Admiralty had been a little more definite in his promise in regard to the provision of Catholic chaplains for Catholic seamen. He could not help feeling, in listening to the speech of the hon. Gentleman, that he did not seem to appreciate the passionate desire of Irishmen, no matter what their creed, for the ministrations of their clergymen in sickness or in danger of death. Some years ago an officer of the Royal Irish Constabulary drew his attention to the fact that although there was room enough for members of the force to grumble and growl about their duties, there was one thing they never objected to, and that was that when some poor stray outcast who had been arrested during the day was taken ill in the hours of the night with a sickness which might possibly terminate in death, and wanted the ministrations of the minister of the religion to which he belonged, there never was the slightest hesitation on the part of the members of the force in at once jumping out of bed, putting on their clothes, and rushing off for that minister. He mentioned this to show the right hon. Gentleman how great a boon it would be to Irish sailors if facilities were given them to have the ministrations of a chaplain of their own creed when in sickness or in danger of death.

Another matter to which attention had been drawn was the necessity of preventing trawlers coming within the prescribed three-mile limit. So far as his constituency was concerned, he had to thank the Department for having recently placed a gunboat at Drogheda Head. That boat, during the short time it had been there, had done remarkably good work in the interests of the fishermen. The fishermen on the west coast of Ireland required a little more protection in this way than they could possibly receive from the six vessels which had been referred to. The coast line of Ireland was some 2,000 miles, and it was rather too much to expect that six of even the most efficient vessels would be able adequately to protect the fishing grounds of such an extensive coast line. This was a question of enormous importance, not only to the fishermen themselves but to the Navy, the strength of which above all was in the *personnel*. If men were wanted for the Navy no better provision could be made than by maintaining the fishing industry of the country, from which the very best recruits were drawn. France, at a considerable cost to herself, maintained and protected the fisheries for the special purpose of training men for the sea upon whom to fall back to man the Navy in time of need. He reminded the hon. Gentleman that the Irish Parliament in the closing years of the eighteenth century, when the Empire —or the Monarchy, as it then was— was in danger, voted no fewer than 40,000 for the Navy, and those 40,000 were Roman Catholic fishermen of the west and south coasts of Ireland. In the course of a few years an Irish Parliament might be sitting in Dublin, and although he could scarcely conceive under existing circumstances any such number joining the Navy, he was perfectly convinced that if an Irish Parliament made a call the fishermen would not fail to respond to it. One thing, however, stood in the way of obtaining any number of recruits among the Irish fishermen which did not exist one hundred years ago, which was that owing to the neglect of the British Government a large proportion of the fishing population had been swept away.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! The topics with which the hon. Gentleman is now dealing I do not think are relevant to the question before the Committee.

MR. NOLAN said he bowed to the ruling of the Chairman, and would pass to another point. He desired to draw attention to the necessity of providing piers and harbour accommodation in various parts of Ireland.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said the provision of piers and harbours was nothing to do with the Admiralty. They had no right to do anything with regard to piers and harbours.

MAJOR JAMESON (Clare, W.): Upon a point of order, Sir, we were certainly told we could speak on the question of piers and harbours.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Those are military works; those which the hon. Member for South Louth has referred to, piers and harbours of refuge, do not come under the Navy Vote at all.

MAJOR JAMESON said they had never been able to discover under what vote piers and harbours came. If they went to the Board of Trade they were kicked out.

*THE CHAIRMAN: If the hon. Gentleman who is in charge of the Vote says that piers and harbours in Ireland do not come under this Vote, I do not see how you can expect him to give an answer.

MR. JOHN REDMOND said he did not know that it was the desire of his hon. friend to raise the question of piers and harbours, otherwise he would have advised him that this was not the opportunity to do so.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Oh, I do not mind. I will reply to anything that I can, but I am unable to reply to questions with regard to piers and harbours or fisheries.

MR. NOLAN reminded the Secretary to the Admiralty that he represented a maritime constituency, and upon that part of the coast of Ireland there was slender protection for vessels driven to seek shelter by stress of weather, and it would be to the advantage of the Navy and shipping in general, as well as the fishermen, if provision were made in the shape of suitable landing-places.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said it would perhaps be convenient if he were now to reply to the questions which had been raised. He was bound to say he was unable at this moment to answer them all, but if there was any part where the arrangements for landing required inquiry and alteration in order to increase the efficiency of the Navy, he would be glad to make that inquiry. He would answer the specific questions which had been put to him.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I understand that the right hon. Gentleman now gives us an assurance that there shall be an inquiry into this question, because he says if there is anything worth inquiring into, he will inquire into it.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said the senior Member for Devonport had spoken of the victualling of the Navy, a question which was also referred to by the hon. Member for Portsmouth on the preceding night. Well, he agreed that there was room for readjustment in the victualling arrangements of the Navy. The Admiralty was of that opinion also, and had appointed a Committee of Inquiry. The hon. Member complained that the Committee had not reported at an earlier date in view of the considerable time that had elapsed since its appointment, but if he knew how enormous were the transactions that the Admiralty had to conduct, and how very many considerations were involved in any change, he would not make such a complaint. He could assure him that the Committee had not wasted time, and he hoped to be able before long to announce that it had completed its deliberations and had arrived at a conclusion which would be satisfactory to the men of the Navy. The food now supplied was neither insufficient nor inferior, but there was, he believed, room for variety, and possibly a change in the time for meals might be attended with increased comfort. Then there was the question of the canteens, and as to that he was bound to say he was uninformed at the present moment; still, he undertook that the matter should have his careful consideration. As to cold storage, depôts were being built at Malta and Gibraltar, and the use of cold-stored meat had already been introduced on the China Station, and the officers had reported most favourably on the condition of the meat distributed to the ships there.

The hon. Member for Devonport had spoken of the leakage of men from the Service as having amounted to 23 per cent. But that was not leakage in the ordinary sense of the word. It consisted of men who, having completed their engagement on which they entered the Navy, had decided not to re-enter, and he should be inclined rather to suggest that the number of men who had re-engaged was remarkable. Indeed, the total had increased in recent years. The hon. Member for North Ayrshire had given the Committee some very interesting reminiscences. He came of a gallant naval family, but probably the instruction he had given them was not necessary to provide a solution of the problems to which he applied it, namely, the question of the Belleville boiler. He urged that a trial should be given them from the scientific side, and he need have no doubt whatever but that it would be. He spoke, too, of submarine boats, but at that period of the evening it was impossible to go into the matter at any length, the more so because the Admiralty had not yet had an opportunity of testing those boats for itself. All the information he could give was equally available to all hon. Members, and was to be found in the descriptions given by foreign authorities of the character and performances of these boats. The hon. Member for West Cork had insisted on the importance of protecting the Irish fisheries against trawlers, and he could only repeat that any specific instance of neglect on the part of the Royal Navy should receive the prompt attention of the Admiralty authorities. The work of the Navy was already very heavy, and it was not intended that it should go outside its duty. It was not the duty of the Royal Navy to enforce local bye-laws for the protection of Irish fisheries—[AN HON. MEMBER: They are not local bye-laws.]—but any neglect or shortcoming on the part of the Navy, if reported, should be inquired into.

MR. POWER: Can the hon. Gentleman say if the gunboats which have been placed at the disposal of the authorities for the protection of Irish fisheries are to be placed permanently on that duty?

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said there were five vessels belonging to the Royal Navy devoted to the work of protecting the fisheries on the high seas, and a vessel had also been recently acquired by the Irish Government, over which the Admiralty had no control.

MR. JOYCE: I have a question down for Monday as to the names of the boats. Can the hon. Gentleman answer that now?

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof. He could not trust his memory to give the names off-hand. As to the question of Roman Catholic chaplains for the Navy, he could only once again promise to lay the views of hon. Members fully before the Admiralty. He thought he could not be expected to say more than that.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.) said hon. Members around him regarded the reply of the hon. Gentleman on the subject of the protection of Irish fisheries with some alarm. It was not correct to suggest that the bye-laws which the Navy were asked to enforce were local bye-laws. The regulations were made by the Inspectors of Fisheries and confirmed by the Lord Lieutenant, and were as much the law of the land as any law emanating from Parliament. They were now told that five gunboats were set apart for the protection of the fisheries. The hon. Gentleman had asked for explicit instances of neglect, but ever since he had been in the House he had heard repeated questions put on this question, and promises of protection given in reply, but no effective good had been done. The Board of Agriculture, they were informed, had itself acquired a vessel for the work. Well, his information was that the vessel in question was a steam launch, the armament of which consisted of a double-barrelled shot gun. There were depredations continually going on off the Irish coast. The fishermen in their small boats could not get up to the steam trawlers in order to secure their numbers, and as great efforts had been made to develop the Irish fisheries, large sums of money having been expended for the purpose, it was not unreasonable that the Irish Members should on behalf of the poor fishermen call on the Government to do its obvious duty in the matter, and to put down illegality. He had himself seen French boats come within the limits over and over again, take fish and get off before the local boats could get near enough to detect the names of the vessels. He hoped the Admiralty would in the future pay more heed to this complaint than it had done in the past. Let them compare the treatment meted out to this important Irish industry with what was done in Australia. Ireland, it was admitted, contributed nearly three million sterling annually to the maintenance of the Navy. The Australian colonies at the most spent £49,000, yet Ireland was refused the protection of a few gunboats, although she constituted a nursery for the Navy, and possessed one of the best fish-breeding grounds in the world. She also suffered great injustice in regard to the naval expenditure of this country. Surely she was entitled to have spent in Ireland a large proportion of the money she had to contribute for the Navy. But how did she fare in the matter of ship construction? She got nothing back, and with the exception of Haulbowline, which he admitted had received more liberal treatment of late years, Ireland did not receive a pound of the expenditure on the Navy. There were two sources from which, apart altogether from dockyard work and naval construction, Ireland might fairly expect to share in the expenditure. One was in the matter of victualling, and the other was in connection with the discharge of seamen. For many months in the year large numbers of vessels were anchored off Berehaven—one of the finest harbours in the west of Europe—and yet nothing whatever was purchased in the town if it could possibly be avoided. In Queenstown harbour the same thing occurred, and although at one time it was customary to pay vessels off in Irish harbours, now they were sent to an English port for the purpose, and the Irish tradesmen lost the benefit which they might otherwise gain from the seamen expending their wages on coming off a long commission. That was surely not fair treatment for the wealthier country to extend to her poorer neighbour, but still, it was an illustration of the niggardly manner in which the great spending Departments of the State treated Ireland. The expenditure on the Navy was increasing with enormous rapidity, and those responsible for it plunged into it heedless of the developments which submarine engineering might produce. The taxpayer was groaning under the burden, the increase of which never gave satisfaction to those who were continually crying for more.

MAJOR JAMESON said the hon. Member for Devonport had commented on the difficulty of getting recruits for the Navy. The remedy was to open up a career. It was well known that in the Navy boys had not the same chance of rising from the ranks as in the Army, and he would ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if it were not possible for a warrant officer who had become chief engineer after probably forty years service to obtain commissioned rank within three years from that time? He would suggest that there were many cases of warrant officers who had served with great distinction for many years who might advantageously be promoted to the rank of substitute lieutenant. During the last fourteen years he believed there had only been three warrant officers so promoted, and he feared it was the case that the commissioned ranks of the Navy were closed to deserving men even after thirty-five or forty years of distinguished service. Another matter to which he wished to draw attention was the length of time petty officers had to serve before they got an increase of pay. At present many of them received little more than 6d. per day increase when promoted to boatswain's rank. They had, however, to provide themselves with new uniforms, and subscribe largely to the mess, their expenses being increased by about 50 per cent. Yet their increase of pay was only from 5s. 6d. to 6s. per day. Some special allowance ought certainly to be made to them to help them meet the great additional expense cast upon them by the promotion. Then again, the carpenters of the Navy complained of the very small amount of pay they received; although they had practically the same rank and duties as foremen in private yards, they got far less pay, and he suggested that they should be raised to 8s. 6d. per day. Without such an increase, how could they expect to get really good men for the positions? The authorities were guilty of childish, cheeseparing practices in these matters. They would strain at a gnat and swallow a camel. They refused a shilling, but would waste millions of money on Belleville boilers and the like. Again, there was the question of compassionate allowances to the wives and children of deserving warrant officers who died in the Service. Why should not this class have the allowance as well as the other classes? Why should men who had risen from the ranks be debarred from having it? It was simply scandalous. Next he wished to ask why no protection was afforded to the Shannon, the largest river in the three kingdoms. For seven years they had been knocking at the Admiralty door, but they had failed to induce the authorities to place a guardship there. He thought that if a training ship were placed in the Shannon it would encourage the recruiting for the Navy in the south of Ireland, and he demanded that a gunboat be placed at the mouth of the same river in order to protect the Irish fisheries from the inroads of the French trawlers. Those vessels were allowed to poach in Irish waters with impunity, and although he had called attention to this matter two years previously the Government had done nothing. Ireland paid one-twelfth of the cost of the Navy, and it was only just that they should derive some benefit from it.

Mr. O'SHEE (Waterford, W.) asked whether the five gunboats alluded to were for the protection of Irish fisheries alone or, for the fisheries of the three kingdoms?

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: No, they are for the protection of Ireland alone.

*Mr. O'SHEE complained that no good had been done by these vessels, and thought it was a somewhat remarkable fact that the one vessel which had been placed at the disposal of the Department of Agriculture had been able to do more for the protection of Irish fisheries in the short time it had been engaged in that task than these five boats altogether during the whole time they had been on the coast. Whilst that boat had had many prosecutions, not a single case had been brought forward by the other five. If those vessels had been doing their duty they had been doing it in a most extraordinary manner, and he hoped that some inquiry would be made as to the mode in which they carried out their duty. He was glad to see that steps were at last being taken to see the importance of the submarine boats. If those boats were able to do half what was claimed for them, then the present gigantic expenditure for naval construction was entirely uncalled for. A submarine boat could be built for £25,000 and manned by ten men, and if it were true that they were able to combat the big ships which the Government were building, those ships would be absolutely useless except for carrying the submarine boats to places where they were to work. It was important that the Government should make up their mind quickly as to the nature of these vessels. If they were all that was claimed for them, it would render unnecessary the £9,000,000 which was now being expended on new battleships. He did not agree with the suggestion that guardships and training ships should be placed on the coast of Ireland for the purpose of inducing young Irishmen to join the Navy, because he regretted that his young countrymen should ever be persuaded to enter the Service. The first use of the Navy was the defence of our shores, and for this purpose the money required ought not to be half the amount that was asked. The proper way to defend our shores was to adopt a short service conscription for home defence, and if that were done there would be no fear of invasion, and, so far as home defence was concerned, this huge expenditure on the Navy would be unnecessary. Why should the Government set up the standard that the Navy of this country should be larger than the combined fleets of France and Russia? Italy, which had as large a coast to defend, set up no such standard, nor was she in a constant state of fear and trembling lest her shores should be invaded. And if it came to a question of protecting foreign trade, he would point out that neither Germany nor the United States, the great trade rivals of this country, had anything like so large a navy. While there were Catholics in the Navy it would be, he thought, to the interest of the country and the Government to give every opportunity for them to receive the ministrations of their religion. He was sorry to see so many Irish Catholics in the Navy, and he thought it the duty of all true Irishmen, until self-government was granted to Ireland, to advise all young Irishmen to refrain from joining the Service. A hundred years ago two-thirds of the men in the Navy were Irishmen, and it was the fighting qualities of those men that made the Navy so successful at that time. It was not the guns that won our battles, but the fighting courage of the men who boarded the ships of the enemy.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 177; Noes, 77. (Division List No. 94.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John Geo. Alexander
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A.J. (Manch'r

Balfour, Rt. Hn. Ger. W. (Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brown, Alexander H. (Shropsh.
Bull, William James
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J (Birm.
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chath'm
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fd. Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hon Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir R. Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward A.
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gordon, Maj Evans (T'r H'mlets
Goschen, Hon. George J.
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
Greene, Sir E W (B'ry S Edm'nds
Greene, Hy. D. (Shrewsbury)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (Mid'x
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. L. (Tynemouth)
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur H. (Hanley)
Heath, Jas. (Staffords., N.W.)
Henderson, Alexander
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Hozier, Hon. James Henry C.
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks., N. R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard C.
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Lawson, John Grant
Lecky, Rt. Hn. William Edw. H
Lee, Arthur H (Hants. Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leighton, Stanley
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W. G. E.
Macdona, John Cumming
M‘Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H E (Wigt'n
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptf'rd
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Herbert Torrens
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Penn, John
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sandys, Lieut-Col. Thos. Myles
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edw. T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, Jas. Parker (Lanarks.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Hon Arthur (Ormskirk
Stewart. Sir Mark J M‘Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col Sir C E H (Sheffield
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C E (Taunton
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notts.
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Rt Hn J Powell- (Birm
Wilson, A. Stanley (Yorks, E. R.
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.
Ambrose, Robert
Asher, Alexander
Blake, Edward
Boyle, James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carew, James Laurence
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Causton, Richard Knight
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Chas. M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Chas. Seale-
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Lambert, George
Leamy, Edmund
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M‘Dermott, Patrick
M‘Fadden, Edward
M‘Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)

O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond,John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Sinclair, Capt.John(Forfarsh.)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Spencer,Rt.Hn.C.R.(Nrtha'ts
Stevenson, Francis S.
Sullivan, Donal
Tennant, Harold John
Thompson,E.C.(Monaghan,N.
White, Luke, (York, E. R.)
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Noes—
Sir Thomas Esmonde and
Captain Donelan.

Question put accordingly, "That a sum, not exceeding £5,760,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expenses of Wages, etc., to Officers, Seamen and Boys, Coast Guard, and Royal Marines, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 196; Noes, 53. (Division List No. 95.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Asher, Alexander
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John

Bagot,Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird,John George Alexander
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour,Rt.Hon.A.J.(Manch'r
Balfour,RtHnGeraldW(Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst,Hon.AllenBenjamin
Beach,RtHn.SirM.H.(Bristol)
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brown,AlexanderH.(Shropsh.
Bull, William James

Caldwell, James
Carson,Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cavendish,V.C.W(Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt.Hn.J.(Birm.
Chamberlain, J. A. (Worc'r)
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane,Hon.Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb,SirJohnCharlesReady
Colston, Chas. Edw. H.Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett,A.Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred

Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Davies,M.Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dimsdale,Sir Joseph Cockfield
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. H.
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fellowes,Hon.AilwynEdward
Fergusson,RtHn.SirJ.(Manc'r
Fielden,Edward Brocklehurst
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Rbt. Penrose-
Fitzroy,Hon.EdwardAlgernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Furness, Sir Christopher
Garfit, William
Gordon,MajEvans-(T'rH'mlts
Goschen, Hon.GeorgeJoachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Green,WalfordD(Wednesbury
Greene,SirEW(B'rySEdm'nds
Greene,HenryD. (Shrewsbury
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Hamilton,Rt.Hn.Ld.G.(Midx.
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Rbt. Wm.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton(Tynem'th
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne, Rt.Hon.CharlesSeale-
Heath, A. Howard (Hanley)
Heath,James (Staffords.N.W.
Henderson, Alexander
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hobhouse, H. (Somerset, E.)
Hope, J.F.(Sheffield,Bright'de
Howard, J.(Midd., Tottenham
Hozier,Hon.JamesHenryCecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Kenyon, Hon. G. T.(Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W(Salop)
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Lambert, George
Lawson, John Grant
Lecky, Rt. Hn. Wm. Edw. H.
Lee,Capt. A. H (Hants,Farehm
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leighton, Stanley
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Bristol,S.
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis(Lowestoft
Lucas,ReginaldJ(Portsmouth)
Macartney,RtHnW.G.Ellison
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Maxwell,RtHnSirH.E.(Wig'n
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriessh.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More,Robt.Jasper(Shropshire)
Morgan,J.Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton,ArthurH.A.(Deptford
Morton,Edw.J.C. (Devonport)
Mount, William Arthur
Murray,RtHnA.Graham(Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col.Wyndham(Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian

O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens

Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Penn, John
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Reckitt, Harold James
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ridley,S.Forde(BethnalGreen
Rigg, Richard
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux

Sackville, Col. S. G.Stopford-
Sandys,Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart,M.H.(Renfrew)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford,E.)
Smith,JamesParker(Lanarks.
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer,Rt.Hn.C.R (N'rth'nts
Stanley,HonArthur(Ormskirk

Stevenson, Francis S.
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir J. M.
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tennant, Harold John
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H (Shef'd
Walker, Col. Wm. Hall
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (Ta'nt'n
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (Notts
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitmore, Chas. Algernon
Williams, Rt Hn J Powell (Birm
Wilson, A. S. (York, E. R.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Rbt. Armstrong
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.
Ambrose, Robert
Blake, Edward
Boyle, James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carew, James Laurence
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Daly, James
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. K. (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hayden, John Patrick
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Leamy, Edmund
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipper'ry Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Sullivan, Donal

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Thomas Esmonde and Captain Donelan.

CIVIL SERVICES EXCESSES, 1899–1900.

2. £24 2s., Excesses.

MR. JOHN REDMOND said he thought that under the circumstances the Government ought to be allowed to get this Vote.

Resolution agreed to.

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee to sit again upon Monday next.

WAYS AND MEANS.

Considered in Committee:—

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

1. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for the Service of the years ending on the 31st day of March, 1900 and 1901, the sum of £5,229,355 2s. be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

MR. JOHN REDMOND said he understood that this was only a formal proceeding, and that there was no intention of proceeding to put the question.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): It is necessary to take this Vote now, but it is a purely formal proceeding. It is simply authorising the payment out of the Exchequer of sums already voted by the House in Committee of Supply for the present year.

Question put, and agreed to.

2. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for the Service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902, the sum of £44,721,500 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I understand that this Committee is for the purpose of enabling these sums to be put into the Appropriation Bill, and that when the Bill is introduced the whole question can be discussed. [The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER: Hear, hear.] If I am right in that contention I shall allow it to go.

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee to sit again upon Monday next.

Adjourned at ten minutes before Seven of the clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 25th March, 1901.

SAT FIRST.

The Viscount Esher sat first in Parliament after the death of his father.

TOOK THE OATH.

The Lord Byron took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

ELLAND GAS BILL [H.L.].

Petition for additional provision, of the Elland-cum-Greetland Gas Company under their common seal; together with the clause and Amendments annexed thereto; read and referred to the Examiners.

SOUTH LANCASHIRE TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.].

Committed: The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

HENRY DIAPER AND COMPANY (DELIVERY WARRANTS) BILL [H.L.].

Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

NORTH-EAST LONDON RAILWAY BILL [H.L.]

Standing Order No. 92 considered (according to order) and dispensed with, with respect to a petition of Messrs. Baring Brothers and Company, Limited: Leave given to present the said petition.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Revised regulations of 21st March, 1901, as to certificates of age, proficiency, and school attendance.

UNITED STATES, No. 1. (1901).

Correspondence respecting the Convention signed at Washington, 5th February, 1900, relative to the establishment of a communication by ship canal between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

EMIGRATION STATISTICS (IRELAND).

Report and tables for the year 1900.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACTS, 1882 AND 1888.

Special Report by the Board of Trade, under Section 1, Electric Lighting Act, 1888; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1.) Bill; St. Marylebone Electric Lighting (No. 2.) Order, 1901.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

No. 2565. Austria-Hungary (financial condition of Hungary).

EXPLOSIVES (EXPLOSION AT A FELT HAT WORKS, DENTON, NEAR MANCHESTER).

Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, by Captain J. H. Thomson, His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Explosives, and H. S. Richmond, Esq., His Majesty's Superintending Inspector of Factories, on the circumstances and probable causes of the explosion which occurred at the felt hat works of Messrs. Joseph Wilson and Son, Denton, near Manchester, 14th January, 1901.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889.

Abstract of Accounts for the University of Aberdeen, for the year ended 15th September, 1900, being the Annual Report on the state of the finances of the University, under the provisions of Section 30 of the Act.

COMMITTALS (IRELAND).

Returns from Clerks of the Crown and Peace of the number of persons committed for trial in 1900.

SUPERANNUATION.

Treasury Minute, dated 16th March, 1901, declaring that for the due and efficient discharge of the duties of the office of junior inspector (science and art) in the department of agriculture, etc., in Ireland, professional or other peculiar qualifications not ordinarily to be acquired in the public service are required.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

SIR JOHN SOANE'S MUSEUM.

Statement of the funds, 5th January, 1901. Delivered (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

PETITIONS.

TRAMWAYS (CONSENTS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES).

Petition against the Amendment of Standing Order No. 22, of Wandsworth Corporation; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

INTOXICATING LIQUORS.

Petition against the sale of, on Sundays; of meeting at Chertsey; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

MILITARY INSTRUCTION (SCHOOLS AND CADETS) BILL [H.L].

A Bill to provide for the regulation of military instruction in schools and in cadet corps and companies and cadet battalions was presented by the Viscount Frankfort de Montmorency; read 1^a; and to be printed. (No. 26.)

PUBLIC LIBRARIES BILL [H.L.].

House in Committee (according to order).

Clauses 1 to 9 agreed to.

Lord NEWTON: My Lords, I ask leave to move an Amendment which I regret I have not had time to place on the Paper. It will take the form of a new clause, and it deals solely with cases of subsidence. In many parts of the country libraries are apt in this way to be seriously damaged, and in certain cases, especially in my own county, buildings have a habit of disappearing altogether. In such cases, of course, it is impossible to reinstate the building out of the proceeds of the penny rate. I understand that Lord Windsor is in favour of the new clause, which has been framed in accordance with the suggestions of the Local Government Board.

Moved, to insert, as a new clause, "Where in any borough or urban district the building provided under the principal Act shall be damaged through the subsidence of the ground, any expense incurred by the Town Council or Urban District Council in the repair of the damage thereto shall not be reckoned for the purpose of any limitation of rate under Section 2 of that Act." (*Lord Newton.*)

The CHAIRMAN of COMMITTEES (The Earl of Morley) expressed doubt as to whether the clause would read.

The LORD CHANCELLOR (The Earl of Halsbury): I have only just seen this Amendment. It has nothing to do with the Section 2 referred to, nor do I understand it.

The Earl of MORLEY: What is "that Act"?

Lord NEWTON: The principal Act.

***The SECRETARY for SCOTLAND** (Lord Balfour of Burleigh): Would it not be better if the noble Lord placed the new clause on the Paper for the Standing Committee, which will not meet before Easter? There would then be time to consider it.

Earl SPENCER: I think we ought to have notice of an Amendment of this character before considering it. It is rather irregular to ask us to approve of this clause to-day, when we have not had an opportunity of seeing it.

Lord TWEEDMOUTH: The noble Lord the Secretary for Scotland suggests that the Amendment should be dealt with by the Standing Committee. I would like to ask if it is clear that the Amendment, which seeks to do away with the limit as to rating, is one that can be dealt with in the Standing Committee?

***Lord WINDSOR**: The new clause would only take effect in a very limited number of cases. In cases where a subsidence has occurred it is impossible, if the limit of a penny rate is insisted upon, to make the building again available for public use.

The Earl of MORLEY: Does the noble Lord move the new clause now?

Lord NEWTON: I am quite indifferent when it is moved. I will move it on the Report Stage if it is desired.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 10:—

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I am afraid I must ask your Lordships to delete this clause. This is a Bill drafted to amend the English Acts, and to apply it wholesale to Scotland would cause a very great deal of confusion. The Bill, I believe, has been previously before Parliament. It was a private Member's Bill in another place, and was allowed to pass as applying to England and Ireland only. I do not think there has been any suggestion before that it should be applied to Scotland, and, according to the best advice I can get, to do so would be to introduce a great deal of confusion. The first sub-section of this clause interprets the expressions "urban district" and "urban authority," but those words are only used in one clause of the Bill—Clause 5—and that clause is wholly inapplicable to Scotland. In addition, if this Bill was to be applied to Scotland, the proper authority in Scotland would be, not the Local Government Board, but the Secretary for Scotland. I am prepared to prove that the great majority of the clauses are not applicable to Scotland at all. Some of them would be of no use, and some would be positively harmful. I hope, therefore, that as the Bill now stands it will not be applied to Scotland. There is no necessity whatever to do so, although I am quite prepared to admit that there are one or two provisions which, if picked out from the rest of the Bill and specified in an application clause, might possibly be of use in Scotland. I hope that at this stage, at any rate, the Amendment which I have placed on the Paper will be accepted. If representations reach me before the Bill goes to the Standing Committee, I shall be quite prepared to consider the application of one or two of the clauses to Scotland. In the meantime, I beg to move the omission of Clause 10.

Moved, "To leave out Clause 10."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

*LORD WINDSOR: After what my noble friend the Secretary for Scotland has stated, I shall not press the clause. At the same time I may mention that I have had communications from many parts of Scotland from persons interested in public libraries advocating the application of this Bill to Scotland; but as the objections to that course appear to be serious, I will accept my noble friend's suggestion and communicate with him before the Bill is taken in the Standing Committee, in the hope that I may arrange with him that certain parts of the Bill shall apply to Scotland.

Amendment agreed to.

Moved, To insert as a new clause, 10, "This Act shall not apply to Scotland."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

New Clause agreed to.

EARL SPENCER: It may be irregular to go back, but I did not understand that the noble Lord opposite desired Ireland to be struck out of the Bill.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I did not.

EARL SPENCER: But it has been struck out.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I would point out that Clause 10 applies only to Scotland.

EARL SPENCER: I beg the noble Lord's pardon.

Clause 11 agreed to.

Clause 12:—

*LORD WINDSOR: I have communicated with the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack with reference to this clause, which provides for the exemption of library managers from liability in certain cases. The noble and learned Lord objects to the clause as it stands, and I propose to amend it in a way which will, I hope, remove that objection. The clause, as I propose to amend it, will read—

"A person shall not be entitled to institute any legal proceedings against a library authority or any member, officer, or servant thereof, or against the managers of any library established otherwise than under the principal Act, in respect of libellous matter in any book kept for use in, or circulation from, their library, unless he has first instituted legal proceedings against the author, publisher, or printer, and that one of such persons has been convicted or adjudged to pay damages on account of libellous matter contained in the said book."

Amendment moved—

"In line 6, to omit all words after 'library' to the end of the clause, and to insert 'unless he has first instituted legal proceedings against the author, publisher, or printer, and that one of such persons has been convicted or adjudged to pay damages on account of the libellous matter contained in the said book.'"—(*Lord Windsor.*)

THE EARL OF HALSBURY: I thought it desirable that Clause 12 should be amended, on the ground that it was both entangled, and, in come respects, unjust. I am told—and I think there is some foundation for the statement—that people occasionally use the law of libel for the purpose of blackmailing library committees and managers, who have no knowledge of the circumstances, and who invariably yield to the pressure of a threat of action and pay rather than defend the action. Therefore, I do not think it is unreasonable to say that before a person shall be entitled to proceed against a library committee, he must proceed, in the first instance, at all events, against either the author, printer, or publisher, and that one of such persons shall have been convicted or adjudged to pay damages on account of the libellous matter in question. The sole object of library authorities is to supply literary food to the neighbourhoods in which they may be established, and they ought, therefore, to be protected. I do not think, however, that it would be right to give the immunity to the library authority proposed by sub-Section 2 of this clause, and I am glad that my noble friend proposes to delete that sub-section.

LORD AVEBURY: The noble and learned Lord will remember that the trustees of the British Museum have had legal proceedings taken against them in connection with books in the Museum library when they had no notice whatever that there was anything libellous in them. In the case of the British Museum there is an obligation which does not apply to other libraries, and I should like to ask the noble and learned Lord whether he is satisfied that the trustees of the British Museum will be sufficiently protected by this clause.

Lord Windsor.

THE EARL OF HALSBURY: I think so.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 12, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 13:—

Amendment moved—

"After line 35, to insert 'any expenses incurred by the Common Council of the City of London or by a metropolitan borough council under the Museums and Gymnasiums Act, 1891, so far as they are not defrayed by fees and other money received under the Act, shall be defrayed in the manner in which expenses incurred by that council under the principal Act are payable.'"—(*Lord Windsor.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Clause 13, as amended, agreed to.

Remaining clause agreed to; Bill recommitted to the Standing Committee; and to be printed as amended. (No. 27.)

SCOTTISH PRESBYTERIAN SOLDIERS IN INDIA—USE OF GOVERNMENT CHURCHES.

*LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY asked the Under Secretary of State for India how many churches had been built for Scottish Presbyterian soldiers, and at what cost, since the Highland soldiers on their return from Dargai were refused admittance to the garrison church; and whether the Quartermaster General would not be the fittest person to decide as to the use of garrison or cantonment churches. Several questions had been asked on this subject in the House of Commons, and the questioners had always been referred to the Blue-book now on the Table; but that Blue-book did not shed any light whatever upon the reason why a change was made, and why the disposition of the churches was taken away from the military authorities. There were two grievances in this matter—the grievance of the Scottish Presbyterian soldiers, and the grievance of the taxpayers of India. The first that was heard of this by the public was after the battle of Dargai. The Highland regiment, after they had returned from the engagement to the cantonment, were refused admittance to the garrison church. The colonel was told that he might hold the service in the open air, but this he refused to do, saying he would not expose the soldiers to the risk of sunstroke. Two alternatives were submitted to him. He was offered a dirty barrack room, and, of all places in the world, a disused play-house or theatre, in which no Scottish Presbyterian would think of worshipping.

There was great speculation as to who had proposed this alteration, and some accused the Viceroy, merely on the ground that his father was a clergyman. But the Viceroy arrived in India subsequent to this incident, so could not be held responsible. Moreover, anyone who knew Lord Curzon would not suppose for one moment that he was a man who would inaugurate such a change. It was next suggested that the alteration was made by Dr. Welldon, the Bishop of Calcutta, though the Presbyterians said that on account of his tolerance they were not afraid of him, but of his successor. But Dr. Welldon was not always of the same mind, as might be seen from some of his public utterances. For instance, he had invited the prayers of non-Christians for Her late Majesty on the occasion of her eightieth birthday; this had raised the Bishop of Colombo against him. Lately he preached in his cathedral on missionaries in a sense which would satisfy the requirements expressed recently by the noble Marquess at the head of the Government, though he said nothing less than what a Christian bishop was bound to say; the week after he preached a sermon in support of vivisection. This was most injudicious, as both Hindoos and Mussulmans are strongly against it, besides it being against biblical teaching. Later on he committed himself still further by calling upon the Government of India to have the Bible taught in Hindoo and Mussulman schools. Against this the Bishop of Bombay protested, and said it would be the best way to empty the schools and to break faith with the Hindoos and Mussulmans. It was rumoured that Dr. Welldon was to be translated to the see of London. Since that see had been filled it was still stated that he was coming to London. He (Lord Stanley) thought he ought to be translated from Calcutta, because he was mischievous, but not to any other important see, where he might be equally mischievous.

With regard to the Scottish Presbyterian soldiers, this question had been wrongly treated as a religious question in the Blue-book. It ought to have been treated as a national political question. The Church of Scotland was equal in importance to the Church of England in the matter of the treatment it deserved. Her late Majesty the Queen used always to attend the Presbyterian Church when in Scotland. It was one of the first principles of the law of nations that countries had equal rights, irrespective of their size, and as the Church of Scotland was the Church of a separate nation it should be treated with full respect. The action of the authorities in disregarding the rights of that Church constituted a slur upon it; and the exhibition of bigotry that had been displayed was to be greatly regretted. It was bigotry such as this with regard to the keys of the shrines in the Holy Land which led to the Crimean War. The Bishop of Lahore had made a proposal that when churches were consecrated only the chancel should be consecrated, and that the nave should be left open to Scottish Presbyterian soldiers. He thought this a very good proposal. Coming to the other grievance—to the taxpayers of India—he contended that it was not right, more especially in the year of famine, that they should be put to great expense in finding more churches for an alien religion when the buildings used by members of the Church of England would suffice. He hoped it was not too late for the Indian Government to take steps to put an end to this state of things. It had a very bad effect on the Hindoos and Mussulmans to see Scottish soldiers outcasted in this way, and to see that Christians were so divided that they could not even worship in the same church.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (The Earl of HARDWICKE): The noble Lord has travelled over a somewhat extended area in the course of his remarks, and I shall find it difficult to follow him and to give him information on all the points on which he desires enlightenment. In the first place, I think the noble Lord is under some misapprehension when he says that the question of worship in English churches in India was taken away from the military authorities. Consecrated churches in India, as the Blue-book will show, have always been under the control of the Anglican Church. The question was put to the law officers of the Crown, and they reported that the consecration of Anglican churches involved an undertaking that they would be appropriated to the Church of England, and the Government of India cannot properly require that they should be used by other bodies without the consent of the authorities representing the Church of England. The noble Lord referred to Bishop Welldon, and, though he praised some of his public statements, I understood him to condemn others. None of the matters to which the noble Lord referred in connection with Dr. Welldon's remarks, so far as I can understand, had any reference whatever to the question on the Paper; but, as a matter of fact, Dr. Welldon has stated his opinion on this subject very clearly. In a circular he addressed to the clergy of India in May, 1899, after Lord Curzon had brought in new regulations with regard to the worship of Scotch Presbyterians in Anglican churches, he said that he could not but believe that with reasonable consideration on both sides the difficulty which had arisen with reference to the churches might almost, if not entirely, disappear. He added that where there were no Nonconformist buildings, or none that were sufficiently large or suitable, it could only be a privilege to admit Nonconformists at convenient hours to the use of churches belonging to the Church of England.

The noble Lord asked me how many churches have been built for Scotch Presbyterian soldiers, and at what cost, since the Highland soldiers on their return from Dargai were refused admittance to the Garrison church. The India Office has no information of any kind as to the refusal to admit these soldiers to the Garrison church. I do not know where the noble Lord has obtained his information. There is no reference to it in the Blue-book in any correspondence that has passed between the Government of India and the Secretary of State during the past two years. As I am not able to say when this incident occurred, I cannot tell the noble Lord how many churches have been built since the incident. But I can tell him that separate churches for Presbyterian worship have already been erected, partly or wholly at the expense of the Government, at Calcutta, Madras, Bangalore Secunderabad, Bombay, Karachi, Poona, Allahabad, and Dalhousie. The noble Lord referred to a proposal that had been made by the late Bishop of Lahore to consecrate the chancel of newly-erected churches, and leave the body of the church open for Presbyterian worship. The Bishop of Lahore made that proposal at the time when the regulations of 1898 were in force. Lord Curzon introduced new regulations in 1899, and I believe the present Bishop of Lahore is perfectly satisfied with the existing arrangements. The Government has decided, wherever the Presbyterian community is sufficiently large, to erect churches for their use which will not be consecrated The places at which these churches will be erected are Rawalpindi, Sialkot, Cherat, Bareilly, Chakrata, and Peshawar.

The noble Lord next asked me whether the Quartermaster General would not be the fittest person to decide as to the use of garrison or cantonment churches. That is obviously a proposal which it is impossible to consider for a moment, because consecrated churches are by law under the authority of the Bishop. I understood the noble Lord to suggest that they were formerly under the control of the Quartermaster General. I do not think this was the case; and for the very short time in 1898 that the Commander-in-Chief had a certain control, the management gave such offence that it was speedily altered by Lord Curzon. The whole of this difficulty arises from the fact that what the Anglican Church is willing to grant as a grace, the Presbyterians claim as a right. But I believe that the *modus vivendi* which has been arrived at is working smoothly, and since the new regulations of 1899 there has only been one small instance of any difficulty arising in the working of these regulations.

PENSIONS TO DISABLED SOLDIERS

LORD MONKSWELL: My Lords, I rise to ask His Majesty's Government whether any alterations have been made since the commencement of the South African War in the dates and system of awarding pensions to soldiers disabled by wounds and sickness due to active service; and whether His Majesty's Paymaster General, as Chairman of the Board of Chelsea Commissioners, can give any information on the subject. I have not placed this question on the Paper because I have the slightest misgiving about the Chelsea Commissioners doing their duty with regard to pensions to disabled soldiers. On the contrary, I have every reason to believe that the noble Duke and his colleagues have exercised their discretion with zeal and industry, and with an adequate idea of the importance of pensions to disabled soldiers. When for a short time I was myself a Commissioner at Chelsea Hospital, it certainly did seem to me that the scale of pensions was by no means too liberal; and since I have ceased to be a Commissioner—some six years—the question of pensions has naturally come very much more to the front. Every year that the establishment of the Army is increased the difficulties of recruiting are increased, and there can be few things more detrimental to the recruiting sergeant's success than that after a long and arduous campaign a large number of soldiers should be discharged throughout the kingdom with a pension inadequate to the injuries they received during the campaign.

THE PAYMASTER GENERAL (The Duke of MARLBOROUGH): My Lords, I have much pleasure in answering the question which the noble Lord has brought before your notice, and perhaps it might be as well if in my reply I gave the noble Lord a short outline of the manner in which the Commissioners of Chelsea Hospital are granting pensions to those soldiers who have been discharged from the Service owing to wounds they have received in action, or through sickness, the result of service in the field. I will first, if your Lordships will permit me, bring before your notice and deal with those men who have been discharged for wounds. Previous to the South African campaign, for example the campaign in Egypt, those men who were wounded and consequently discharged from the Service were awarded by the Commissioners of Chelsea Hospital a pension which the Commissioners considered to represent the permanent loss in earning power to the individual from the result of his wounds. The rate of pension varied, in the case of private soldiers able partially to earn from 6d. to 1s. 6d., and in the case of those totally unable to earn from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. These pensions when granted became permanent; that is to say, the wounded man received in proportion to his disability a permanent pension from the State varying from 6d. to 2s. 6d. a day. That was the system adopted by the Commissioners in granting pensions for wounds before the South African War.

Since the commencement of that campaign no alteration in the rate of pensions for wounded men has been made in the Royal Warrant. No wounded man, if partially disabled, can get more than 1s. 6d., or if totally disabled more than 2s. 6d. But the Commissioners unanimously agreed to make a somewhat new departure in granting the pensions embracing a different principle from that adopted previous to the South African War. They decided in almost every case to grant the maximum amount of pension at once. That may seem to your Lordships a very simple and popular proceeding, but it was undertaken for the following reason. They realised that in the case of a man who had received a wound, necessitating very often an operation and frequently painful treatment, the shock to the system was, as a rule, very great for the first year; that the man required rest and careful treatment, and that his scale of comfort, therefore, should be as high as possible to expedite his recovery. These views, which seemed reasonable, found support from the medical officers whose advice was sought, and they concurred in and supported the views of the Commissioners.

The effect of granting maximum pensions for the first year to wounded men has had this result, that many men who, under the old system, would only have been awarded 6d., but who have been granted 1s. 6d. a day, have, with the extra shilling, been able to obtain a higher scale of comforts, and at the end of one year we have found, on examining their condition, that they have recovered in a most satisfactory manner. I do not think that I should occupy your Lordships' time with numerous cases. Two instances will suffice to prove my point. A private in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders received a wound at the battle of Magersfontein. The wound disabled him one half. This man formerly would have been awarded 6d. or 9d. a day, but he was granted 1s. 6d. After a year's rest the Medical Report says his wound only slightly interferes, and he has therefore been awarded a permanent pension of 9d. The wisdom of giving the higher rate of pension is manifest in this way, that this man has recovered in one year from his disability, and has thus been enabled to return to civil employment, and to earn 25s. a week as a builder's labourer. There is another instance of a private in the Rifle Brigade who received a gunshot wound in the head. His wound disabled him one half. He was awarded 1s. 6d. This year he was so far recovered that we were enabled to pension him permanently at 9d. a day. He is now earning as a bricklayer's labourer £1 a week. There are many other instances, my Lords, of men who were wounded and who were granted 1s. 6d. for one year, and who, after one year, have been enabled to take up civil employment and to earn sufficient to justify us in placing them on a permanent pension of from 6d. to 1s.

It appears, therefore, that although the change of system involves a greater expenditure in earlier stages, nevertheless there are good reasons for believing that it secures ultimately a greater advantage to the wounded soldier, with a proper regard to the economy of the public service. After twelve months, all the cases of men who have been wounded in the South African War are again brought up before the Commissioners. Their condition is examined, and we then grant them a permanent pension on a scale which appears to us to be a right and proper one. The men who, after a year, are found to be slightly impaired, receive 6d. a day; those who are found to be impaired, 9d. to 1s.; those who are materially impaired, which would be nearly equal to the loss of a limb, 1s. 3d.; those whose wounds are equal to the loss of a limb, 1s. 6d.; and those who are wholly unable to contribute, through the result of their wounds, 2s. 6d.

The Duke of Marlborough.

I now turn, with your Lordships' permission, from the discussion of the wounded to the consideration of those rendered unfit or broken by disease. In this branch of the subject we have again modified the original conditions. Formerly—that is to say, before the war—the men who were discharged for sickness received daily pensions of 6d. if they had served under six years; of 7d. if they had served between six and twelve years; and of 8d. if they had served between twelve and fourteen years, and a halfpenny a day in addition for every year's service after fourteen years. All these pensions granted to men of under fourteen years service were conditional; that is to say, the Commissioners could at any time after the first year, at their discretion, make the pensions permanent, or they could discontinue them in the case of any man who was able to earn a full livelihood. In April, 1900, a warrant was issued enabling the Commissioners to award from 6d. to 1s. at their discretion to privates whose disability was due to exposure in the field. The rate awarded was to depend on the loss of wage-earning power, and the length and character of the service were, of course, to be taken into consideration. Again, following the same principle, which I have endeavoured to explain to your Lordships, the Commissioners found it advisable to grant the maximum amount —that is, 1s.—in almost every case, in order to enable the men to have sufficient means to accelerate their recovery.

Since the South African War, and until quite recently, the Commissioners have been granting 1s. a day to all those who have been discharged from the Service through sickness in that campaign. Yet even this amount was deemed not to be sufficient, and numerous cases were brought before our notice of men who were totally unable to earn through the effects and results of severe illness contracted during the South African campaign. Among the cases that came before our notice there is one striking example—the case of a gunner. This man was invalided from South Africa with a bad attack of enteric, and when his case came before the Commissioners the Medical Report said that the whole of one side of his body had become completely paralysed, that he was quite unable to work for his living, and that he was never likely to recover. This man was living near or among other discharged privates who were in receipt of 1s. 6d. a day, the result of wounds, but they were in a better condition than he was, because they were able to get about and earn something towards their livelihood. In this instance the man did not wish to press his claim, for to use his own words, he "did not desire to base any claim he might have on the compassion of his country or any flimsy pretext of that sort."

It seems, therefore, to the Commissioners that, while it may be more honourable to be wounded in action against the enemy than to be reduced by disease, the misfortune to the individual is the same, and that, though the one case appeals more strongly to the public imagination, both have an equal claim upon the public bounty. We made a strong recommendation to higher authorities, in which we received the support and assistance of the Junior Lord Commissioner of the Treasury, who is the Treasury representative on the Chelsea Board. Our representation has had this result, that we have been granted power to treat those cases of disease due directly and wholly to war service at the same rate, and on the same scale, as that allowed for disabilities from wounds, which your Lordships will recollect is 1s. 6d. for those who are partially disabled and 2s. 6d. for those totally disabled. I have not alluded to the rates of pension granted to non-commissioned officers, for your Lordships will readily understand that we are guided by the same principles, though, of course, the awards are at a higher rate. I may mention here that this somewhat new principle of awarding pensions is not retrospective; it does not apply to any campaign previous to the commencement of the South African War.

I fear that I have answered the noble Lord's question at some length, and I fear, also, that I have trespassed too long on your Lordships' time in venturing to explain the principle upon which the award of pensions are now being granted; but I have done so because I feel that it is a subject which affects the comfort and well-being of a great number of those who have served their country with distinction in the past. I will only venture to add, in conclusion, that it has been the earnest endeavour of the Commissioners of Chelsea Hospital to grapple with the subject of pensions, and, with the approval of His Majesty's Government, to award them in a liberal and generous spirit. We have felt that, in dealing liberally with those who have served their country well in the past, we will induce others to serve her well in the future; and that, of the vast expenditure which this war has necessitated, no part will be more readily and cheerfully borne by the nation than the comparatively small sum which is required to provide honourably for those who have lost their health or strength in the public service.

The Earl of NORTHBROOK: I am sure your Lordships must have listened with much satisfaction to the clear statement made by the noble Duke on this most important matter. It seems to me that the rules laid down by the Commissioners of Chelsea Hospital are admirably suited to the occasion, but I hardly think it is necessary, in the case of the loss of a limb, to call upon a man to come up again at the end of a year. I trust that the Commissioners will exercise pressure with the authorities in order to get the rule with regard to soldiers who have entirely lost their health in the operations in South Africa extended to other campaigns. There are no doubt cases of soldiers who have suffered from disease contracted in the hardships of the Tirah campaign, and who are equally deserving of liberal treatment with those who have suffered from disease contracted in South Africa. I commend these two suggestions to the noble Duke.

*The UNDER SECRETARY of STATE for WAR (Lord Raglan): Perhaps it might interest the noble Earl to know that a Committee has been appointed at the War Office to discuss the whole question of pensions, and will go into the point he has mentioned.

Lord MONKSWELL: I have heard with great satisfaction the statements of the noble Duke and the Under Secretary for War. I suppose some discretion is exercised by the Commissioners in the granting of the maximum pension at once. So far as I can gather from the statement of the noble Duke, a man who is only slightly injured, and whose injury does not interfere at all with the performance of his ordinary work as a citizen, is given the same pension as a man who is almost completely disabled—namely, 1s. 6d. a day for the first year.

The Duke of MARLBOROUGH: I am afraid I cannot have explained myself clearly. Men who are wounded are pensioned at 1s. 6d. a day if they are partially disabled, and at 2s. 6d. if they are totally disabled. At the end of the first year they come up for re-examination, and if they have returned to civil employment and can earn their own livelihood, they get a permanent pension of 6d. or 9d.

Lord MONKSWELL: I do not think that quite answers my point. I entirely agree that disease and wounds ought to stand on the same footing with regard to a pension, but I cannot find in the Royal Warrant any distinction made between wounds and disease. The words are, I believe, "wounds or injuries received on active service or on actual military duty." I was surprised to find that it required a new Warrant in 1900 to include exposure in the field under the head of disease.

***Lord RAGLAN**: Formerly it was necessary to make a special application to the Treasury in any case of disability through illness. The present arrangement is that, with the concurrence of the Treasury representative on the Board of Commissioners, these cases are dealt with without the necessity of making a special application to the Treasury.

House adjourned at a quarter before Six of the clock, till to-morrow, half-past Ten of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 25th March, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

CROMER WATER BILL.

Read a second time and committed.

NORTH BRITISH RAILWAY BILL.

Petition for additional Provision; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

BERWICKSHIRE COUNTY TOWN BILL [LORDS].

Ordered that the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills do examine the Berwickshire County Town Bill [Lords], with respect to compliance with the Standing Orders relative to Private Bills.—(*Mr. Long.*)

WOLVERHAMPTON AND CANNOCK CHASE RAILWAY BILL.

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table and to be printed.

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP 2).

Colonel H. F. Bowles reported from the Committee on Group 2 of Railway Bills, that, there being no business ready for their consideration, they had adjourned until Wednesday next, at Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

PETITIONS.

BEER BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Alderton; and Ebrington; to lie upon the Table.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE.

Petition from Little Berkhampstead, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

COAL MINES (EMPLOYMENT) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Chaloner; Tibshelf; Boosbeck; Upleatham; Lumpsey; Loftus; Carlin How; Guisborough; Liverton; and Lingdale; to lie upon the Table.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Croydon; and Bristol; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Birkenhead; and Northfleet; to lie upon the Table.

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Rotherham (two); Carlin How; Lumpsey; Loftus; Guisborough; Chaloner; Boosbeck (two); Liverton; Upleatham; Lingdale; Tibshelf; and Carhouse (two); to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Bootle (twenty-nine); Aintree (two); Walton on the Hill (four); Battersea; Litherland; Battersea Rise; Bedfordshire; Horsham; Islington; Mexborough; Nottingham; Ramsgate (two); Bristol (twenty-three); Faygate; Manchester; Gravesend; Bow; Easton; Edinburgh; Fauldhouse; Hull; Cemmaes (two); Sheffield; Alexandria; Crawley; Wolverhampton; Wigan (six); Horfield; Brunswicke; Cardross; Little Stonegate; London (two); Worcester; West Bristol; and Aberdeen; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Pulteneytown; Loch Leven; Lochore; Uphall; Armadale; Dundee; Garioch; Glasgow; Weem; Law; Anstruther Wester; and Dumbarton; to lie upon the Table.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Petition of John Xavier Merriman and Jacobus Wilhelmus Sauer, for leave to be heard on the question of future policy; to lie upon the Table.

SOVEREIGN'S OATH ON ACCESSION BILL.

Petition from Peden's Stone, against; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

AMERICAN MAIL SERVICE.

Return [presented 23rd March]; to be printed. [No. 98.]

EXPLOSIONS (FELT HAT WORKS, DENTON, NEAR MANCHESTER).

Copy presented, of Report by Captain J. H. Thomson, R. A., His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Explosives, and H. S. Richmond, Esq., His Majesty's Superintending Inspector of Factories, to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on the circumstances and probable causes of the Explosion which occurred at the Felt Hat Works of Messrs. Joseph Wilson and Sons, Denton, near Manchester, on the 14th January, 1901 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

UNITED STATES (No. 1, 1901).

Copy presented, of Correspondence respecting the Convention signed at Washington, 5th February, 1900, relative to the Establishment of a Communication by Ship Canal between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, No. 2565 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACTS, 1828 AND 1888.

Copy presented, of Special Report by the Board of Trade under Section 1 of the Electric Lighting Act, 1888 [St. Marylebone Electric Lighting (No. 2) Order, 1901] [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Copy presented, of Revised Regulations of the 21st March, 1901, as to Certificates of Age, Proficiency, and School Attendance [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

Soane's Museum.—Copy of Statement of the funds of the Museum of the late Sir John Soane on 5th January, 1901 [by Act].

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—EXECUTION OF BRITISH SUBJECTS BY BOERS.

SIR J. FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether His Majesty's Government have received official information to the effect that four British subjects who had been made prisoners by the Boers, two of them named Theunissen, one M'Lachlan, and one Boyd, after being brutally treated, were taken out of goal at Wolmaranstad and publicly shot to death one by one by order of Generals Delarey and Smuts; and whether it is known on what grounds this execution took place.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): I have received the following telegram from Lord Kitchener—

> "M'Lachlan and Boyd, believed to be British subjects, and three burghers, Mathisen, Theunissen and Ahrens, were tried at Wolmaranstad on charge of high treason by the Boers, and shot on 23rd February."

I have no further information.

TAAIBOSCH TRAIN WRECKERS.

*MR. HAVILAND-BURKE (King's County, Tullamore): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the three men shot at De Aar on the 19th instant by sentence of a military court, confirmed by Lord Kitchener, for alleged treason and murder in connection with the wrecking of a train near Taaibosch, and the two men who were sentenced by the same military court to five years penal servitude for the same alleged offence, were thus punished in connection with the wrecking of a coal train near Taaibosch on Monday, 18th February, which train was also carrying Kaffirs, horses, and men of the 29th Imperial Yeomanry Company; whether any one or more of these men were among the eight Boer prisoners of war reported to have been taken by the rescuing force on that occasion; whether any one or more of them were local Dutch farmers who had failed to give warning of the contemplated train-wrecking to the British military authorities; whether any evidence was produced to show that they could have otherwise prevented the train-wrecking; and whether the proceedings of the military court are on record, and can be produced for the information of this House.

*MR. BRODRICK: I have no further information beyond what I gave the hon. Member last Friday.†

MR. HAVILAND-BURKE: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he can possibly give me a straight answer to a straight question?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That is a very improper observation to make.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): And a very unreasonable thing to expect.

LINDLEY SURRENDER.

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the letter of the War Office, dated 16th December, 1900, demanding General Colvile's resignation, alleged that General Colvile was mainly responsible for the surrender of the Yeomanry at Lindley; and whether that allegation is borne out by the finding of the Court of Inquiry into that surrender.

*MR. BRODRICK: The War Office letter alluded to stated that "the Secretary of State having discussed the incidents of the surrender of No. 13 Imperial Yeomanry battalion, concurs with Lord Roberts that you were mainly responsible for the surrender." The Court of Inquiry absolved Colonel Spragge from any blame—General Colvile was held responsible by his military superiors for not attempting his relief.

MR. LAMBERT: Will the right hon. Gentleman answer the last part of the question?

*MR. BRODRICK: I have done so. The Court of Inquiry found that Colonel Spragge had done all in his power, and laid the responsibility on other shoulders.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): But what about the men who raised the flags of surrender?

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GENERAL BOTHA.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with reference to the negotiations between Commandant Louis Botha and Lord Kitchener, if he will cause inquiry to be made from the Boer general as to the terms which his Government consider essential to bring about the termination of the war, more especially as in Lord Kitchener's opinion Botha is anxious to bring about peace; and whether he will procure and lay upon the Table of the House the copy of the letter from Commandant Botha referred to by Lord Kitchener as having been brought to him through Mrs. L. Botha on the 23rd ult.

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† See page 847.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): The answer to the first paragraph is, No, Sir. In reply to the second I have to say that I have telegraphed to South Africa for the text of this letter, and will consider whether it can be laid on the Table of the House.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether if General Botha desires to give his version of the conversation between him and Lord Kitchener in reference to the terms of peace, he will afford facilities for its transmission by telegraph or otherwise to this country in its complete form and without delay.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: This is a hypothetical question, and I cannot answer till the circumstances contemplated in it have actually arisen.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: May I ask if it is a fact that Lord Kitchener has given one version of the conversation, and that possibly there is a second one, and does not that supply to the right hon. Gentleman's mind sufficient reason——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The right hon. Gentleman has said that he cannot give an answer to the question.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: He does not want to. But I will put it down again.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he can say whether Mrs. Botha went to meet her husband on the occasion of the recent negotiations for peace of her own motion; and, if not, at whose suggestion.

MR. BRODRICK: Mrs. Botha went to meet her husband at his request.

*MR. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War on what date the letter (No. 10) (in Paper Cd. 528) was sent by Lord Kitchener to Commandant Louis Botha, and what was the date of the reply (No. 11).

MR. BRODRICK: The letter from Lord Kitchener was sent on the 7th March; the reply from Commandant General Botha was received on the 16th March; I do not know on what date it was despatched.

ASSISTANCE TO BOER FARMERS AFTER THE WAR.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in reference to the Peace negotiations in South Africa, if he will withdraw the words "by loan" in reference to the assistance proposed to be given to the Boer farmers, in view of the fact that both Sir Alfred Milner and Lord Kitchener have expressed disapproval of those words, considering them likely to interfere with the success of the negotiations.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: No, Sir. The negotiations are closed, and His Majesty's Government adheres entirely to the views it has expressed on this subject.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: May I ask whether, in view of the fact that in respect of these conditions there is a great difference of opinion between the right hon. Gentleman, Sir Alfred Milner, and Lord Kitchener, these negotiations will be opened again with a view to settlement.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I am not aware of the great difference which the hon. Member supposes to exist, but in any case there is no intention of reopening the negotiations.

MR. PIRIE: How long will this intention remain?

[No reply was given.]

PLAGUE IN CAPE COLONY.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the gravity of the outbreak of plague in Cape Colony and the number of persons who are now travelling backwards and forwards between the Cape and this country, he will ask the authorities at Cape Town to furnish weekly Returns of the number of cases and deaths among whites, negroes, Indians, and Malays; of the localities in which the disease is prevalent; and of the number of cases and deaths among the military forces in South Africa.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have asked the Governor to invite the Cape Ministers to send a weekly Return in the form desired by the hon. Member.

REPATRIATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN REFUGEES.

MR. FULLER (Wiltshire, Westbury): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the fact that many former inhabitants of the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies, being British subjects, have been ruined in the course of the war in South Africa, and that in many cases their wives and families have come to this country while they themselves are serving in Colonial regiments in South Africa, he will consider the possibility of sending such refugee families back to South Africa at the conclusion of the war at this country's expense.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I could not give any pledge on behalf of His Majesty's Government, but I should be prepared when the war is over to consider any individual case such as is described by the hon. Member on its merits, and in connection with any petitions for repatriation that may exist at the time.

BOER PRISONERS—SUGGESTED SETTLEMENTS IN CANADA AND AUSTRALIA.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if his attention has been called to the suggestion of General Ian Hamilton that some of the Boer prisoners of war at St. Helena should be afforded an opportunity of engaging in agriculture in Canada, and, in the event of that Government or the Commonwealth of Australia or New Zealand being willing to receive some of these men, if His Majesty's Government will consider the question, having regard to the absence of any occupation for them in St. Helena; and whether, in such event, upon the conclusion of peace, the Government will consider the issue of a grant equivalent to the estimated value of the passage to South Africa, and the re-establishment upon their farms of any Boers willing to settle in such British colonies.

MR. BRODRICK: I do not think it possible to enlarge these prisoners pending terms of peace being arranged.

WAR DESPATCHES.

MR. BLACK (Banffshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether any written despatches have been received from the Commander-in-Chief in South Africa since Lord Roberts's despatch of 15th November, 1900; and, if so, whether, in view of the meagre character of the telegraphic despatches and the censorship of extra-official sources of information, these despatches will be published before the debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill.

MR. BRODRICK: No despatches have been received.

MR. BLACK: Will the right hon. Gentleman wire to Lord Kitchener requesting despatches as soon as possible?

MR. BRODRICK: I have no doubt that Lord Kitchener will send the despatches as soon as he finds it desirable.

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE FRONT—DRILL ARRANGEMENTS.

MR. LAMBERT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if all the Volunteers and Yeomanry who have volunteered for service in South Africa have been drilled and trained after joining at their depôts before embarkation by officers who have had experience of South African warfare.

MR. BRODRICK: There is no information to show this. At some few depôts there are officers with South African experience, but the majority of such officers are at present either in South Africa or at home sick.

ST. JOHN'S AMBULANCE BRIGADE—PENSIONS.

MR. PIERPOINT (Warrington): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether a pension will be granted to the widow of Private J. Maddocks, No. 544, St. John's Ambulance Brigade, who, after long service with Lord Methuen's Field Force, died at Mafeking on the 18th January.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): The widow in question has been awarded a pension of 5s. a week with 1s. 6d. a week for her child, and a gratuity of £5 by the Patriotic Fund. The question of how such cases should be further dealt with is now under consideration.

CANADIAN HORSES FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

*MR. GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies will he explain in what way the winter climate of Canada interferes with the purchase and transportation of horses for the war in South Africa; will he also say how Canadian horses have borne the change of climate; and whether horses purchased in Australia or the Southern States of the United States have proved of better service to the authorities.

LORD STANLEY: The severe weather in Canada during certain months causes horses to get out of condition, and also renders railway transport difficult. So far as information is available Canadian horses which have reached South Africa have borne the change of climate well, but there have been very heavy losses in some cargoes in passing through the tropics at this period of the year.

ROYAL RESERVE REGIMENTS.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state approximately the total strength of the Royal Reserve Regiments on 1st March, and how many of these troops have volunteered for the garrison battalions in the Mediterranean and elsewhere.

LORD STANLEY: The Royal Reserve Infantry battalions approximately numbered 17,500 non-commissioned officers and men on the 1st of March. About 1,000 have enlisted into the garrison regiment up to date.

OFFICERS' HALF PAY AND RETIRED PAY DECLARATIONS.

MR. STOPFORD-SACKVILLE (Northamptonshire, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, seeing that inconvenience and delay may be caused to officers in receipt of half-pay or retired pay by the necessity of their declarations being attested by specified persons according to existing regulations, he will consider the desirability of allowing agents or bankers to give the necessary certificates of their clients being alive, according to the practice which prevails for analogous claims in the Indian Army.

LORD STANLEY: Such declarations are required by the Appropriation Act. I will consider the question further.

VOLUNTEER REGIMENTAL SERGEANT-MAJORS.

MR. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state why regimental sergeant-majors of Volunteers are refused the rank of warrant officer, when this rank is granted to regimental sergeant-majors of Militia and Yeomanry, whose duties are lighter and less continuous.

LORD STANLEY: The Secretary of State will consider this matter again, but it has not been hitherto deemed that the duties of sergeant-majors of Volunteers entitle them to warrant rank.

MILITIA DISEMBODIMENTS.

SIR GEORGE FARDELL (Paddington, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can explain why regiments of Militia which were embodied in November or December, 1899, have not been disembodied in preference to those regiments which were embodied some months later, some of which have been already disembodied; having regard to the statement made in the House on 7th August last by the then Under Secretary of State for War that battalions first embodied would have a strong claim to be first released.

LORD STANLEY: Before the disembodiment referred to, the wishes of the various units were ascertained through the General Officers Commanding. Those units accordingly who wished to be disembodied were disembodied, and the services of those who did not press for disembodiment were retained.

MILITIA OFFICERS' PROMOTIONS.

SIR GEORGE FARDELL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if officers of Militia over fifteen years service, seconded from the Militia to enable them to serve in the Regular Army, who are also captains in the reserve of officers, will be promoted on completion of their service in the Army so as to entitle them to rank as field officers in the Reserve.

LORD STANLEY: There is no intention of promoting any particular category of officers *en bloc.* Individual cases of specially good service rendered will be considered on their merits.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IN INDIA.

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL (Armagh S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether Sir Power Palmer has been appointed Commander-in-Chief for India for the space of a year and a half only; and whether this is the usual period, and if not, why has any alteration been made.

MR. BRODRICK: It has been decided to continue Sir Power Palmer, who as senior officer in command took over the post of Commander-in-Chief in India provisionally, on the death of Sir W. Lockhart on 18th March, 1900, to make up a period of two years dating from 19th March, 1900. The usual term of the appointment has been for five years. It is not considered desirable to extend Sir Power Palmer's appointment beyond the time mentioned.

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL: Was this appointment made solely to keep the place for Lord Kitchener?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

ARMY EXAMINATIONS—FRENCH SYNTAX.

MR. PIERPOINT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been drawn to the decree concerning the teaching of French syntax, issued by the French Minister of Education, dated 31st July, 1900; and whether he will cause the rules for examination therein laid down to be adopted in the examinations in the French language for the English Army.

LORD STANLEY: The Secretary of State will consider this matter in consultation with those engaged in the teaching of French at our military academies.

MR. PIERPOINT: Will the advisers of the Secretary of State be the examiners or independent persons?

LORD STANLEY: I cannot say.

CANTEEN BANKERS—CUBY'S BANK GIBRALTAR.

MR. PIRIE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the canteen and other regimental losses at Gibraltar owing to the stoppage of payment of Cuby's Bank; whether he is aware that this bank was a semi-private one, kept by a man well known to belong to the class of money-lenders as distinct from that of bankers, and that regimental funds had been allowed to accumulate balances at the bank in excess of the regulations, one battalion losing upwards of £1,000 in canteen and sergeants' mess funds, and another £900; whether one sergeants' mess requested leave to remove its money from the bank, and was refused, and if so, can he explain why, and whether he can state the total loss of regimental moneys; and whether he will cause inquiry to be made as to responsibility in the matter.

LORD STANLEY: The bank referred to is, I presume, that of Messrs. Cuby and Son. My attention has been drawn to the case and a thorough inquiry is being made into it.

ARMY ESTABLISHMENT BEFORE THE WAR.

MR. LAMBERT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what were the numbers of regular soldiers in this country immediately before the South African War over the age of 20, and with one year's service; under the age of twenty, and with less than one year's service; reservists; also, what were the total numbers in each class belonging to the British Army.

Lord STANLEY: The numbers of the rank and file on the 1st October, 1899, were as follow:—

At home.

Under 1 year's service	28,245
Over 1 year's service	65,072
Under 20 years of age	28,183
Over 20 years of age	65,134
Reservists	81,163

Total in British Army.

Under 1 year's service	30,302
Over 1 year's service	168,487
Under 20 years of age	32,663
Over 20 years of age	166,126

The sergeants, drummers, and trumpeters are not classified as above, but amounted to 9,735 at home and 18,253 in all.

MILITARY MANŒUVRES ACT (1897) AMENDMENT BILL.

Colonel BROOKFIELD (Sussex, Rye): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether it is the intention of the Government to introduce during the present Session a Bill to amend and extend the provisions of the Military Manœuvres Act, 1897; or otherwise to ask for increased facilities for the training and instruction, on a large scale, of the troops in the United Kingdom.

Mr. BRODRICK: Yes, Sir; I hope to introduce a Bill amending the Manœuvres Act.

ARMY SCHOOLS—DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE.

Mr. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office if he will state the names of the members of the Departmental Committee on the Conditions of Service in Army Schools; what are the terms of the reference to the Committee; and will the question of compulsion to wear uniform when off duty be considered.

Lord STANLEY: The representative of the Treasury is Mr. T. L. Heath. The representative of the Board of Education has not yet been selected. Those of the War Department are Colonel Yates, A.A.G., Woolwich, and Mr. Higgins, Deputy Accountant General. The terms of reference are to examine the proposals for improving the tuition of pupil teachers at Duke of York's School and Royal Hibernian Military School, and to advise generally on the mode of training and remunerating Army schoolmasters and of inspecting Army schools; also to consider the necessity of an increase of the establishment. The Committee will, doubtless, not lose sight of the hon. Member's suggestion on the subject of uniform.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S FUNERAL—TREATMENT OF SCOTTISH VOLUNTEERS.

Mr. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state the nature of the food and accommodation which was provided for Volunteers of the 1st Seaforth, Argyll and Sutherland, and Gordons on their arrival at King's Cross early on the morning of the 2nd February, and also during the hours they were in London by invitation of the War Office to take part in the funeral ceremonies of the late Queen; and will he say whether any dinner or other substantial meal was provided for these Volunteers; and, if so, where it was served.

Lord STANLEY: The food supplied to these Volunteers was the same as that supplied to the whole of the troops, and was as follows:—Breakfast—Bread and butter, sandwiches, sausage or ham, and tea. Dinner—A large meat pie, bread and cheese, and a pint of beer or a bottle of minerals per man. The Gordons and Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders had both meals in the London Scottish drill hall. The Seaforths had their dinner there, and their breakfast at the King's Cross goods shed.

Mr. WEIR: Is the noble Lord aware that these men had nothing but stale dry bread and cold tea?

Lord STANLEY: That is not my information.

MR. WEIR: Then the noble Lord's information is inaccurate.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S FUNERAL—DETAILS OF COST.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War, seeing that in the Civil Service Supplementary Estimates there is a charge of £35,000 for expenses of the funeral of Her late Majesty, out of which the War Office claims £15,000 for travelling expenses, food, and accommodation for troops, will he state how much of this sum was expended in connection with the Volunteers from Scotland who attended the funeral at the invitation of the War Office.

LORD STANLEY: The cost was estimated at £1,400. I cannot give the exact expenditure on each corps without going into details, the interest of which would not justify the labour of their collection.

NAVAL SHIPWRIGHT RATINGS.

MR. GILBERT PARKER: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty, having regard to the fact that at the naval ports there is a deficiency in the naval shipwright ratings, and seeing that the present pay is inferior to the rate of wages in the dockyards or private shipbuilding firms, whether he can state what additional inducements, if any, are being offered to obtain shipwrights.

*THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): No additional inducements are being offered. A large number of boys are being trained in H.M. dockyards to serve as shipwrights in the Fleet, a plan which, in the opinion of the Admiralty, will enable them to obtain all the shipwrights they require.

CROMARTY FIRTH.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is aware that there is anchorage for His Majesty's Fleet in Cromarty Firth opposite the towns of Invergordon and Cromarty, Ross-shire; and will the First Lord confer with the Secretary of State for War as to the expediency of fortifying the two headlands known as the Sutors at the entrance to the firth.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I must refer the hon. Member to the answer given to a similar question on 14th December last by the Civil Lord.† It is impossible to consider the cases of particular harbours apart from the general question.

MR. WEIR: But has it not been promised that the First Lord will confer with the Secretary of State for War?

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: That is the statement in the question. My reply is that we must treat the question as a whole and not merely as relating to Cromarty Firth.

NAVAL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPLAINS.

MR. LEAMY (Kildare, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can say on how many occasions since the year 1878 a Roman Catholic chaplain has accompanied a squadron of the Navy, in accordance with the Admiralty minute of that year.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: No Roman Catholic priest has accompanied a squadron, the occasion required by the Minute referred to not having arisen. On two occasions Roman Catholic priests have been specially appointed to minister to squadrons, namely, at Crete in 1898, and in the North of China last year.

COLONIAL CUSTOMS TARIFFS.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES (Carmarthen Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he is prepared to enter into communications with the Colonial Governments with a view to induce them to adopt the customs tariff of the United Kingdom, so that British and Irish goods will be allowed to enter their colonies on the same customs tariff as applies to goods entering the United Kingdom, or, failing this, to induce those Colonial Governments who have not done so to adopt a preferential tariff for British and Irish goods, as is done by the Canadian Government.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I am not prepared to enter into such communications as the hon. Member describes. It is, in my opinion, essential to the success of movements of this nature that the initiative should come from the colonies themselves.

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† See *The Parliamentary Debates* [Fourth Series], Vol. lxxxviii., page 836.

CHINA—ANGLO-RUSSIAN DISPUTE AT TIENTSIN.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can state by whom, and at what date, the Russian concession at Tientsin was granted; whether it is a concession to the Russian Government itself; and whether its area includes a portion of the railway line which is mortgaged to British subjects as security for the Chinese Imperial railway loan.

The UNDER SECRETARY of STATE for FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Viscount Cranborne, Rochester): On the 31st of December Li Hung Chang signed an agreement granting to the Russian Government as a concession a considerable tract of land of which the Russian military authorities had previously announced themselves possessed by right of conquest. His Majesty's Government are not aware under what authority Li Hung Chang signed the agreement. In answer to the third paragraph, it appears that the concession includes property in the occupation of the Chinese Railway Administration, but at present it is not possible to be more precise. I may add that we have declared that the validity of the concession and of proprietary rights within it must be reserved for future examination. Count Lamsdorff made a proposal to the same effect to Sir C. Scott on the 20th instant.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE: Am I to take it that the date previously given was not correct?

Viscount CRANBORNE: I think that the answer just given may be taken to be an accurate statement so far as we are aware.

ANGLO-GERMAN AGREEMENT AND MANCHURIA.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: On behalf of the hon. Member for North Roscommon, I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the German Government accepts the view of His Majesty's Government that the Anglo-German Agreement applies to Manchuria as well as to China proper.

Viscount CRANBORNE: His Majesty's Government have no information on this subject other than that already at the disposal of the public.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: May I ask the noble Lord whether, in view of the statement, publicly made, that the German Chancellor has declared that the Agreement does not apply, the Government will take steps to ascertain whether the German Chancellor made that statement, and whether it is true?

Viscount CRANBORNE: If the hon. Gentleman will be good enough to put that question on the Paper, I will endeavour to answer it.

RUSSIA AND MANCHURIA.

Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether the Russian Government have presented to the Government of China a somewhat modified form of the agreement signed between the Russian and Chinese local representatives at Port Arthur; whether this last agreement reserves for Russia exclusive privileges in regard to all mines, railways, and industrial developments in Manchuria, and binds China to construct a railway from the Trans-Siberian Railway to the Great Wall, such railway to be under Russian military guardianship; and whether Russia has withdrawn from the so-called Concert of Europe.

Viscount CRANBORNE: We understand that the terms of the proposed agreement are still under discussion, and I am unable to make any positive statement on the subject. The Russian Government have informed us that they have no intention of withdrawing from co-operation with the other Powers in the affairs of China.

Sir E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: Do the other Powers accept the principle that the agreement should be made behind their backs?

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: I am afraid that that is a question of which I must ask for notice.

ALLEGED LOOTING IN CHINA.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India if he can now say whether despatches of General Gaselee, with reference to looting and pillage in China, will be laid upon the Table.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): I have looked at this despatch since the hon. Gentleman put his last question to me on this subject, and I do not think that it can be published.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Why not?

LORD G. HAMILTON: Because it concerns the acts of troops other than those under General Gaselee's command. As far as I know, no allegation has been made against the conduct of our troops. But if the hon. Member can supply me with any particular allegation I will telegraph to General Gaselee, and any reply that may be received I will give.

SLAVERY IN ZANZIBAR AND PEMBA.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether steps can be taken to expedite the emancipation of slaves in Zanzibar and Pemba.

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: As a result of various causes, including emancipation, it is estimated by the best authorities that there are in the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba only half as many slaves as were believed to exist in 1897. It is the opinion of those of our officials who are qualified to judge, and it is believed that the representatives of the missionary societies on the spot share the view, that further abolitionist measures would not be necessary. His Majesty's Government would be glad to consider any suggestions which may be made with a view of facilitating emancipation.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS: But are there not 50,000 slaves still there?

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: About that number.

KOREA.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS: I beg to ask the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether it is a fact that Mr. M'Leavy Brown has been dismissed from the post of Director General of Customs in Korea, and, if so, what are the grounds of dismissal.

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: A difficulty has arisen in regard to Mr. M'Leavy Brown, Director General of Customs in Korea, but it would be premature to make any detailed statement on the subject.

PROPOSED IMPORT DUTY ON STEEL.

MR. FITZALAN HOPE (Sheffield, Brightside): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in view of the formation of the American Steel Trust, the threatened increase in the German steel duties, and the need for raising fresh revenue to meet the growing expenditure of the country, he will consider the advisability of submitting proposals to the House for a substantial import duty on foreign steel.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): I can only say to the hon. Member, what I say to the numerous correspondents who offer me suggestions for raising revenue, that I cannot anticipate my Budget statement.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet): Do I understand the right hon. Gentleman to say he is not prepared to consider this suggestion?

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: Oh, I have been considering a great many things.

MERTHYR TYDVIL STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATE.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will lay upon the Table of the House the correspondence that has passed between himself, the stipendiary magistrate for Merthyr Tydvil, and the justices of the peace for the division of Caerphilly Higher, in the county of Glamorgan; and if he can state the relative position and authority of a stipendiary and local justices in cases coming before them upon which they are not agreed; and whether the decision of the stipendiary overrides the opinion of any number of lay justices sitting with him in petty session.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): A stipendiary magistrate when sitting with other magistrates acts as chairman, and, of course, in view of his position and legal acquirements, his opinion carries great weight, but I am advised that he has not in point of law any power to override the decision of a majority of the justices sitting with him. I do not think that any good purpose would be served by laying the correspondence referred to on the Table.

BREWERS' LICENCES RETURNS.

MR. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether in the Brewers' Licences Returns the number of brewers mentioned in the first column of Part III., under the heading of persons licensed, could be divided into two classes, namely, those who use malt only, and those who use malt with substitutes for same, and the amounts of materials used by each class be returned separately instead of combined as is now the case; and whether the actual quantity of bulk barrels of beer made by each and every class could be added to the Returns.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: The change desired by my hon. friend shall be made in future Returns. It cannot be made in the Return for the year ended 30th September last, as that is already practically ready for printing.

BRITISH WHEAT AVERAGES.

MR. LAMBERT: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can state the mean price of the 4lb. loaf and the *Gazette* price of British wheat in the first week in March in 1900 and 1901 respectively.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The average *Gazette* price of British wheat per quarter in the first week of March, 1901, was 25s. 11d., and in the first week of March, 1900, 26s. 4d. There is no officially ascertained price of bread, but returns made to the Board of Trade by over 300 co-operative societies in Great Britain show that the mean price of the 4lb. loaves sold by them at the beginning of March, 1901, was 5⅛d., and at the beginning of March, 1900, 4⅞d.

SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM—BUCKLAND FISH COLLECTION.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is yet in a position to make any statement in reference to the ultimate destination of the Buckland Fish Collection at South Kensington.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: No, Sir.

PETERHEAD AND HOLYHEAD HARBOURS.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can state the total of the Government grants to Peterhead Harbour, also the total of the Government grants to Holyhead Harbour.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The total expenditure upon Holyhead Harbour from the year 1855 to the 31st March, 1900, was £1,611,360. As regards Peterhead Harbour, I am informed by the Admiralty that the total of the Government grants to the Harbour works from their commencement in 1885-1886 to 1900-1901, both inclusive, amounts to £426,360, and that the expenditure during that period has been £398,000.

HECKMONDWIKE SCHOOL OF SCIENCE.

MR. YOXALL: I beg to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education whether he is aware that the Board of Education have ordered that fees must be charged at the Heckmondwike School of Science; whether this decision was taken on the complaint of the Dewsbury Grammar School authorities; and, seeing that the Heckmondwike Science School is under the administration of a Technical Instruction Committee and receiving aid from moneys devoted to technical instruction, whether this requirement to charge fees is allowable under existing regulations of the Science and Art Branch of the Board of Education.

*THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir J. GORST, Cambridge University): The answer to the first paragraph of the question is in the affirmative. The decision was taken after local inquiry, and is in accordance with Clause VI. of the Directory of the Board of Education.

MR. YOXALL was understood to ask if a charge on the local rates was not the alternative to fees; and, getting no answer, to give notice that he would raise the question on the Estimates.

TRAINING COLLEGES.

MR. YOXALL: I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether a Board of Education Committee on training colleges has been appointed; who are the members of this Committee, if appointed; and what are the terms of reference to it; and will the Committee consider the lack of training college accommodation, with a view to reporting upon advisable measures of remedy.

*SIR J. GORST: No Committee on training colleges has been appointed. But a Committee is suggesting to the Board of Education courses of study desirable for candidates for certificates. It is not usual to publish the names of such Committees nor the terms of reference, which are not formal. The answer to the last paragraph is in the negative.

IRISH DRIFT SURVEY.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether it is intended to utilise the Geological Survey of Ireland in issuing the Drift Survey, and when it may be expected; whether it is intended to commence the Soil Survey of Ireland, and whether it will be conducted under the Irish Agricultural Department; and whether a sufficient grant and competent staff will be provided to enable its being properly carried out.

*SIR J. GORST: The question of the Drift Survey is, as I have already stated, under the consideration of the Board of Education. The question of a Soil Survey is one for the Irish Agricultural Department, not for the Board of Education, which has to do with geological surveys only. The last question does not arise.

BOARD SCHOOL SITES IN THE TOWER HAMLETS—REHOUSING.

MR. THOMAS DEWAR (Tower Hamlets, St. George's): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education, having regard to the fact that Mr. Wylie, who attended at the Limehouse Town Hall on Friday last to inquire, on behalf of the Board of Education, as to the eligibility of Blakesley Street site for the erection thereon of a board school in the Tower Hamlets School Board Division, Block H, was offered an alternative vacant site in the same block, and was assured on behalf of the Stepney Borough Council that if the London School Board would exercise its responsibilities for rehousing, by taking a larger number than twenty houses in any slum property, the council would willingly co-operate with the School Board in any rehousing scheme, whether the Vice-President will order the Education Department to veto the Blakesley Street scheme, which proposes to dishouse 120 people in the most congested and populous district of East London, and to accept either of the alternative suggestions offered.

*SIR J. GORST: There has not yet been time to consider the Report of the Inspector who attended at the inquiry.

ENGLISH LAND REGISTRY.

SIR WALTER FOSTER: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General whether he can state the number of titles registered since 1862, when the existing system of land registry was established, under which it is open to any landowner in England to voluntarily register his title; and, having regard to the fact that the system of compulsory registration of title, under the Land Transfer Act, 1897, was to be experimental only, as is shown by the provision that the system was not to be extended beyond one county for three years after the first Order making registration compulsory; and, seeing that the new system came into operation in the county of London under an Order dated 18th July, 1898, whether it is intended to hold an inquiry into its working before the experimental period of three years expires on the 17th July next; or whether it is proposed to test the working of the system in some other way, in view of the complaints that the system has added to the difficulty and expense of dealing with property.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): The total number of titles registered to the end of February is 17,281, of which 756 were prior to 31st December, 1898, as appears from the Parliamentary Return in July, 1899, No. 304. No case for holding an inquiry into the working of the Act has been established. Its extension is intended to be gradual, and its working will be tested from time to time by experience of the system in actual operation.

KEIGHLEY SUNDAY LETTER DELIVERIES.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he is aware that on two Sundays in February the postman delivering in the Knowle Park district of Keighley returned numbers of undelivered letters; that the delivery of those letters was delayed twenty-four hours; that, on one occasion, the postmaster accompanied the man round the walk and insisted that he should not stay until his knocks were answered but should carry away the letters; and that, although many householders complain that though they responded with promptitude, the postman left before they reached the door; and whether he will give instructions to the Keighley postmaster to act in such a manner as to avoid inconvenience in the Sunday morning delivery of letters.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): The Sunday delivery of letters at Keighley having become too protracted, in order to test the working of the arrangements, the postmaster accompanied one of the postmen on his round on the two Sundays referred to. He reports that most of the houses in the Knowle Park district have no street door letter boxes, and that at many of them no one came immediately to receive the letters. In order that other people might not have to wait for their correspondence, and that the postman's Sunday work might not be unduly protracted, the postmaster instructed the postman, after knocking at the door and waiting a reasonable time without response, to proceed on his route. In the Postmaster General's opinion the postmaster was justified in adopting this course.

LIGHT RAILWAYS IN HIGHLAND CROFTING COUNTIES.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he will state how many certificates have been issued by the Secretary for Scotland, under Section 5 of the Light Railways Act, 1896 for the construction of light railways in the six Highland crofting counties; and will he state how many light railways have been constructed in these counties since the Light Railways Act came into force.

*THE SOLICITOR GENERAL FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SCOTT DICKSON, Glasgow, Bridgeton): Perhaps I may be allowed to answer in the absence of my right hon. friend. Five certificates have been issued by the Secretary for Scotland, but no light railways have been constructed in the six crofting counties.

MIGRATION FROM SCOTTISH CONGESTED DISTRICTS.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he will state how many crofters and cottars have been migrated with the assistance of the Congested Districts Board from the congested districts of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland to other districts.

*MR. SCOTT DICKSON: If the hon. Member means me to state the number of cases in which crofters and cottars have been migrated from the congested districts of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland to places outside the congested districts area, the answer is that there have been none; but there have been, and are, in course of progress migrations of crofters within the congested districts, particulars of which will appear in the Report.

MR. WEIR: If the information is to be furnished with the Report of the Board, when will that Report be presented?

*MR. SCOTT DICKSON: I hope within two months.

HALF TIMES IN SCOTCH SCHOOLS.

MR. PIRIE: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether he can state the total number of children in Scotland for whom additional attendances have been claimed for the years ending 30th September, 1898, 1899, and 1900 respectively, under Article 23 (b) 1 of the Scotch Code, 1900; also the number of such children not employed under the Half Time Act but over ten years of age, and certified by the managers to be prevented from giving full attendance at school in consequence of being beneficially and necessarily employed at work during school hours during the same years respectively.

*MR. SCOTT DICKSON: With regard to the first part of the hon. Member's question, the number of children for whom additional attendances were claimed under the article quoted in the Code of 1900, and under the equivalent article in previous Codes was as follows: 3,402 in 1898, 3,434 in 1899, and 3,082 in 1900. As regards the second part of the question, the number of such children not employed under the Half Time Act, but certified as described, was: 2,556 for 1898, 2,318 for 1899, and 1,211 for the period ended 30th April, 1900, at which date the article under which this allowance was made was abolished.

ULSTER ASSIZES.

MR. O'DOHERTY (Donegal, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he could state when last the Ulster winter assizes were held in the city of Londonderry, and in what other Ulster towns or cities have they since been held; and whether, considering that Londonderry has as good railway and other accommodation as any other town or city in Ulster, the step will be taken of holding the winter assizes this year in that city.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): Perhaps I may be allowed to reply to this question. The winter assizes were last held in the city of Londonderry in the years 1891 and 1895; in the remaining years since the former date they have been held in Belfast and Omagh. In the selection of the venue for winter assizes the governing consideration is the effective, convenient and economical administration of justice. This depends on a number of changing circumstances which vary from year to year, so that it is impossible at this period to give the undertaking asked for in the question.

MR. O'DOHERTY: Will the right hon. Gentleman say what are the special circumstances which render Belfast so favourable a venue?

MR. ATKINSON: I cannot do that in answer to a question, but if the hon. Member will raise the subject on the Estimates I shall be happy to give him the numerous reasons.

MOVILLE POLICE.

MR. O'DOHERTY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the fact that the three superior officers of the Royal Irish Constabulary stationed at Moville—namely, the district inspector, head constable, and senior sergeant—are Protestants although Moville is a place where over three-quarters of the population are Roman Catholics; and, seeing that some time ago complaint was made to the Inspector General by the parish priest of Moville asking to have this remedied, whether the promise then made by him would now be carried out so that some at least of the senior officers who are Protestants be removed and their places filled by Roman Catholics.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): The facts are as stated in the first paragraph. No promise was made by the Inspector General to the parish priest of Moville to the effect mentioned. I understand, however, that the senior sergeant, who is a Protestant, is about to be transferred to another station, and that he will be replaced by a Roman Catholic sergeant.

THE "GRANUAILLE."

MR. O'DOHERTY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Congested Districts Board's steamer "Granuaille" underwent her annual repairs and survey in England last year; and whether, if the Londonderry Shipbuilding and Engineering Company, Limited, are willing to undertake the repair of the steamer on terms similar to those charged the Board by the English firm who did the work last year, the necessary work of survey and repair will be entrusted this year to the Londonderry company, to which port the "Granuaille" often puts in, and thereby give employment to a city contiguous to the congested districts of Donegal.

MR. WYNDHAM: The contract for repairs to this vessel last year was given to a Scotch firm, whose tender was considerably less than that of the Londonderry firm. When the vessel again requires to be repaired, tenders will be invited from the firms at Derry.

MR. O'DOHERTY: What was the cost?

MR. WYNDHAM: I have not the figures with me.

FISH CURING STATIONS ON THE DONEGAL COAST.

MR. BOYLE (Donegal, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state how many curing stations have been erected by the Congested Districts Board on the Donegal coast; who are the lessees of same; and why has the curing station at Rossbeg been taken from a local fishcurer and handed over to a Scotchman, although the local man was prepared to pay the same rent as the Scotchman.

MR. WYNDHAM: There are ten curing stations, all of which save one, sublet to a Scotch firm, are at present on the Board's hands. These stations are only sublet for a fishing season, and then to the fishcurer who, in the Board's opinion, offers the best terms to the fishermen, regard being had to other circumstances, such as the business reputation of the applicant,

LONDONDERRY ASSIZES — SENDING TRIVIAL CASES FOR TRIAL.

MR. M'FADDEN (Donegal, E.): I beg to ask the Attorney General for Ireland if his attention has been drawn to the case of the King *v.* Sarah Hagan and the King *v.* Mary Jane M'Laughlin and Mary A. Nelson, heard at the Londonderry Assizes on 18th March instant, and to the observations of Lord Justice Holmes commenting on the practice of magistrates sending such cases for trial at the assizes and putting the county to unnecessary expense, and stating that the Act under which the defendants were tried contemplated that such cases should be summarily dealt with and the county saved the expense of a trial at assizes; and if, in view of the observations of the Lord Justice in these and similar cases heard by him at the assizes for the north-west circuit, he will consider the advisability of issuing a circular to magistrates to refrain in future from returning such trivial cases for trial when they can be summarily dealt with at petty sessions, and also a circular to district inspectors of constabulary to cease asking magistrates to return trivial cases for trial, and thus save the ratepayers.

MR. ATKINSON: In the first case mentioned the coroner's jury had found a verdict of manslaughter against the accused, and it was upon that charge she was brought before the magistrates, so that they had no option in the matter. In the other cases the solicitor concerned for the accused applied to have the cases disposed of summarily and the police officer in charge offered no objection whatever to that course. The Government cannot dictate to the magistrates as to how they should decide the cases which may come before them, but instructions will be given to the police to call the attention of the justices in cases of this character to their power of disposing of them summarily.

GWEEBARRA BRIDGE, CO. DONEGAL.

MR. BOYLE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention as President of the Congested Districts Board has been drawn to a resolution of the Donegal County Council regarding the condition of the Gweebarra Bridge in the Glenties Rural District, County Donegal, and urging that the Board should take steps to have the bridge repaired; and whether, seeing that the bridge has only been recently erected by the Board, they will comply with the request of the county council.

MR. WYNDHAM: The bridge was completed in December, 1896, at a cost to the Board of £9,000. The Board is unable to relieve the county authorities of the responsibility undertaken by them in March, 1897, to maintain the bridge.

KILLYDYSART DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MAJOR JAMESON (Clare, W.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board, having regard to the fact that the District Council of Killydysart, County Clare, were forbidden by the Local Government Board to pay an account due to Mr. Patrick M'Inerney, of Ennis, for timber, and that Mr. M'Inerney sued the District Council of Killydysart at the last quarter sessions and obtained a decree with costs against the district council, whether the Local Government Board will pay these costs incurred by the action of the Local Government Board in Ireland.

MR. WYNDHAM: The guardians of the Killydysart Union inquired from the Local Government Board whether they could legally pay a sum of money to Mr. M'Inerney for timber supplied between August, 1897, and January, 1899, but for which he did not present his account until August, 1900. The Board informed the guardians that in view of the terms of Section 51 (7) of the Local Government Act, it had no power to extend the time for payment in the case of sums due since the date of passing of the Act, namely, the 12th August, 1898. The action of the Board consisted merely of explaining the limits of its own jurisdiction. The reply to the last query is in the negative.

MAJOR JAMESON: Will the right hon. Gentleman take steps to see that the Inspectors of the Local Government Board do not unnecessarily interfere in these local matters?

MR. WYNDHAM: I said that we have no power.

MAJOR JAMESON: But is not the right hon. Gentleman aware that they did interfere?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: In view of the fact that costs were incurred in this case owing to the acts of the Local Government Board, will the right hon. Gentleman take steps to have the money refunded to the local authority?

MR. WYNDHAM: I am afraid I can give no such undertaking. In this case the Board put a query to the Local Government Board, which replied that it had no jurisdiction. I cannot carry the matter any further.

IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT DRUG CONTRACTS.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Irish firms competing for the Supply of Local Government Board's prescribed lists of medicines are compelled to offer a discount off the scheduled prices; and that the Apothecaries Hall of Ireland, which holds a Royal charter, occupying a semi-official position, tenders for those contracts under cost price; whether any of the members of the Apothecaries Hall hold Government appointments; and whether a system will be adopted to enable private firms to enter into competition for those contracts.

MR. WYNDHAM: All firms tender upon precisely the same terms (and offer an abatement upon the gross cost of the articles purchased during the year). The Apothecaries Hall enjoys no privilege in connection with these contracts. It holds a charter for instruction in medicine, but the commercial branch transacts business for the benefit of the shareholders in the same way as any other firm. Private firms already compete for these contracts, and appear to secure about 96 per cent. of the contracts, and the Apothecaries Hall about 4 per cent. No change is proposed to be made in the system. I have no information on the second paragraph.

Mr. FIELD : Will the right hon. Gentleman be good enough to answer the second paragraph ?

Mr. WYNDHAM : I have no information to enable me to do so.

Mr. FIELD : Why not inquire ?

CONGESTED DISTRICTS IN COUNTY SLIGO.

Mr. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.) : I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the number of electoral divisions at present scheduled under the Congested Districts Board in the poor law unions of Tobercurry and Boyle No. 2 (county Sligo), and whether, in view of the fact that there are grazing tracts in these districts, some of which are advertised for sale, he will consider the advisability of having the whole of these unions scheduled in order to facilitate the sale of the waste lands mentioned to the Board.

Mr. WYNDHAM : The numbers are 9 and 3 respectively. There is no power to schedule as congested areas divisions not already scheduled.

FEVER IN THE ISLES OF ARRAN.

Mr. DUFFY (Galway, S.) : I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether any complaints have reached him regarding the fitness of the person appointed to the position of fever nurse in the Isles of Arran ; whether several fresh cases of typhus fever have broken out ; whether he is aware that the medical inspector of health has not as yet paid attention to the complaints made in this House regarding his non-visitation to the Isles ; and whether, in view of the fact that the spring mackerel fishing industry soon opens, he will direct this Gentleman to proceed at once to the Isles and take such steps as may be necessary to check this disease.

Mr. WYNDHAM : I have already stated that the employment of the male nurse referred to was the best arrangement possible in the emergency. Only one fresh case of sickness has since broken out, and it is doubtful whether it is fever. There is every reason to hope the disease is checked. The medical inspector visited the islands on 21st February, 28th February, and again on Saturday last, when he conferred with the medical officer of health, and ascertained that all due precautions had been carried out. The matter is being dealt with in the ordinary way by the rural district council, and the Local Government Board sees no reason for interfering in the discretion of the council in the choice of nurses, or otherwise.

BAILIEBOROUGH UNION AMBULANCE.

Mr. SAMUEL YOUNG (Cavan, E.) : I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state why the Local Government Board have prevented the clerk of Bailieborough Union from paying promptly for the horsing of an ambulance van hired by them, which would diminish the payment to be made ; and if he will direct more latitude to be given to boards of guardians in the future than is now allowed by the Local Government Board in such matters.

Mr. WYNDHAM : The Local Government Board did not take the action imputed to it in the first part of the question. The Board, in order to assist the Union in a controversy with the contractor, suggested that the guardians should enter into a permanent contract for the performance of such work. The guardians are acting on that suggestion.

NATIONALIST MEMBERS AND THE COMMISSION OF THE PEACE.

Mr. CULLINAN (Tipperary, S.) : I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Mr. Kendal E. O'Brien, an hon. Member of this House, has been deprived by the Lord Chancellor of Ireland of the Commission of the Peace, which he held by virtue of his office as chairman of the Tipperary District Council, and that Mr. O'Brien has been twice since re-elected to the position, and each time refused the appointment by the Lord Chancellor; whether the evidence on which Mr. O'Brien was deprived of the Commission of the Peace was based on extracts taken from two alleged speeches which appeared in newspapers, no representatives from which were at either meeting; and whether, seeing that Mr. John O'Dowd and Mr. Conor O'Kelly, both hon. Members of this House, were similarly superseded, and subsequently re-ap-appointed, there is any reason why Mr. O'Brien should not be similarly treated by the Lord Chancellor.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The circumstances of the case of the hon. Member for Mid Tipperary were different from those of the Members for South Sligo and North Mayo. The first hon. Member, so far from seeking to lessen the disqualification in respect of which he was removed from the magistracy, or allowing time to mitigate its force, gave utterance in further speeches, as reported in the press, to sentiments amounting, in the opinion of the Lord Chancellor, to further disqualification. The language reported to have been used by the hon. Member was communicated to him by the Lord Chancellor, but he neither denied having used it, suggested any inaccuracy therein, or disclaimed its obvious meaning.

Mr. CULLINAN: May I ask the Chief Secretary for Ireland whether the hon. Members of this House who were deprived of the Commission of the Peace, and have since been restored, admitted or denied the language they had used; and also whether these hon. Members made any apology whatever previous to their re-appointment to the Commission of the Peace?

Mr. WYNDHAM: I have already given the grounds which guided the Lord Chancellor in this matter, and I can add nothing.

Mr. O'DOWD: I beg to say that in the circumstances in which I was re-appointed I made no apology whatever for the views I had stated. I wish to say that I was deprived of the Commission of the Peace for sympathising with the Boers, and afterwards, on my re-election as Chairman of the District Council, I was re-appointed to the Commission of the Peace, and I made no apology for my views with regard to the Boers.

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is not entitled to make a speech.

Captain DONELAN (Cork, E.): Is there any appeal from the decision of the Lord Chancellor in these cases?

Mr. WYNDHAM: No, Sir.

Mr. O'DOHERTY: In what particulars did the case of the hon. Member for Mid-Tipperary differ from the cases of the hon. Members for North Mayo and South Sligo?

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member cannot call on the right hon. Gentleman to argue these points. [Ministerial laughter.]

Mr. CULLINAN: I think this is not a matter for laughter. I think it is a very serious matter.

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is not entitled to make observations of that kind.

Mr. KENDAL O'BRIEN (Tipperary, Mid) rose.

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order!

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): Allow me, Sir, to point out that you may not be aware that the hon. Gentleman who has just risen is one of the hon. Gentlemen referred to in this question, and he may have a personal explanation to make.

Mr. KENDAL O'BRIEN: I wish to ask the right hon. Gentleman why the Lord Chancellor refused my application after being re-elected last June as Chairman of the District Council?

MR. WYNDHAM: I think the hon. Member will see that, since I have put these questions to the Lord Chancellor, I cannot answer them without notice.

SIR GEORGE WHITE'S CLAIM AT ANTRIM ASSIZES.

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that at the County Antrim Assizes, on Thursday, 21st March, Sir George White claimed £25 in respect of damage done to the windows of his house at Knocknacarry, near Cushendun, for which damage the county court judge had previously awarded him £4 10s., that Mr. Justice Barton considered it was not a case of malicious injury, and disallowed the claim to compensation; and whether His Majesty's Government will see that Sir George White suffers no pecuniary loss in this matter.

MR. ATKINSON: The Government have no power to award compensation to Sir George White under the circumstances mentioned.

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL: Is not this the house from which a priest was evicted, and has Sir George White turned house-grabber?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

DUBLIN CUSTOMS HOUSE EXAMINATIONS.

*MR. O'DOHERTY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state who conducts the examinations held at the Custom House, Dublin, for candidates appointed by the county councils to the positions of assistant surveyor in Ireland; in what subjects the candidates are examined; and is the examination conducted in the same way, and are the subjects the same, or have they been increased, or has the standard for obtaining a certificate been raised since the coming into operation of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898.

MR. WYNDHAM: The examinations are conducted by the Engineering Department of the Local Government Board. The subjects of examination in the case of persons not professionally qualified are English composition, arithmetic, mensuration, building construction, construction and maintenance of roads, chain levelling and surveying. The questions set in these subjects are of an elementary character. Before the Act of 1898 came into operation, the examinations were conducted at the office of the Board of Works, and the subjects were mensuration, chain levelling, road and drainage works, surveying, and estimates for works.

*MR. O'DOHERTY: Have the subjects increased in numbers since the Local Government Board came into operation, and is it because the candidates are now Nationalists, whereas formerly they were Unionists?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOLS—EXTRA SUBJECTS.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state what is the fee paid for Irish taught in national schools as an extra subject; are fees paid on general proficiency or on individual passes; and in what classes, under new rules, may children be presented for Irish as an extra subject.

MR. WYNDHAM: I am not at present in a position to make any statement on this subject, as the correspondence with the Treasury has not yet concluded.

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.

*MR. O'DOHERTY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will grant the Return on the Notice Paper for Monday with reference to the Royal Irish Constabulary.

MR. WYNDHAM: Yes, Sir. But Galway having been merged into the county by the operation of the Local Government Act it has now no separate authorised police establishment. I can exclude Galway, or include it with a note to the above effect.

*MR. O'DOHERTY: It is my mistake. I should have put Limerick instead of

Galway. Will the right hon. Gentleman grant the Return, if I substitute Limerick for Galway.

MR. WYNDHAM: Yes, Sir.

KNOCKBRACK (DONEGAL) SUB-POST OFFICE.

MR. M'FADDEN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that a sub-post office which has been in existence at Knockbrack, Letterkenny, county Donegal, for upwards of twenty years was abolished last year; and whether, seeing that the inhabitants of the district are unanimous in asking that the office be re-opened on the ground of public convenience, he will give directions to have the old post office restored to the district, in accordance with the memorial to the Postmaster General setting forth the inconvenience caused by closing this office.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The sub-post office at Knockbrack, Letterkenny, was closed last year in view of the difficulty of finding anyone suitable for the appointment of sub-postmaster. The postal business of the neighbourhood is not sufficient to justify the maintenance of a post office, and as a house-to-house delivery has now been established the office is no longer required as a place of call for letters. The Postmaster General will, however, make a further endeavour to find a suitable person for the office.

IRISH LANGUAGE IN THE POST OFFICE.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he can say for what languages interpreters are employed in the General Post Office, London; and whether, seeing that until recently efforts were made to deliver letters addressed in Irish, he can state who is responsible for a circular issued to post office officials directing them to regard all letters addressed in Irish as undeliverable or insufficiently addressed, and therefore to make no effort to deliver them.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The ordinary staff in the General Post Office, London, is able to deal with correspondence addressed in most languages, but no regular interpreters are employed. The Postmaster General doubts whether there are many persons, if, indeed, there are any, who can write letters in Irish and cannot write in English, and he does not consider it generally practicable to make special arrangements for the translation of addresses in Irish into English, especially in the case of letters posted in England. Nevertheless, he has given instructions that in the event of a letter in Irish passing through an office where it can be deciphered, the address shall be translated into English and the letter sent on to its destination.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: May I ask if the hon. Gentleman is aware that a number of Irishmen prefer to write their letters and address them in the Irish language?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: That does not arise out of the question on the Paper. The Postmaster General has nothing to do with the language in which letters are written. If letters are written in Irish it will be for the convenience of the parties themselves.

MR. WEIR: Will similar instructions be given with regard to letters addressed in Gaelic?

[No answer was returned.]

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Is it not a fact that a number of people living in Ireland can only write in the Irish language?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

MR. FLAVIN: I will call attention to the matter on the Estimates.

GLENCOLUMBKILLE (DONEGAL) EX-SUB-POSTMASTER.

MR. O'DOHERTY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he can give the date of dismissal of the ex-sub-postmaster of Glencolumbkille, county Donegal, and the date of appointment of his successor; whether he is aware that the head postmaster of the district removed the post office to the house of a man named Byrne, whose house was the most suitable, and whom he recommended for the vacant position, and that a memorial, signed by nearly all the inhabitants, recommending the appointment of Mr. Byrne, was sent to the Postmaster General; and can he explain why the position has been filled by the appointment of a retired sergeant of the Royal Irish Constabulary, who was not a householder; can he say who recommended the present sub-postmaster for the position, and why a Protestant was appointed, seeing that the Roman Catholics are in a large majority in the district.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The situation of the late sub-postmaster of Glencolumbkille, county Donegal, was declared vacant on the 23rd December last, and it was decided on the 26th ultimo to appoint the present sub-postmaster. In the interim Mr. Byrne was placed in temporary charge of the duties (that being the best arrangement which could be made at the time), and two memorials, signed by inhabitants of the district, recommending Mr. Byrne for appointment, were received. Mr. Byrne's premises, however, were not so conveniently situated as the present sub-office; and there were other reasons against his appointment. The appointment of the present sub-postmaster was recommended by persons on whose judgment the Postmaster general can rely; and, having become the tenant of the premises in which the late sub-postmaster carried on the business, and which were central, and otherwise suitable, he was selected for the appointment. The Department is not concerned with a candidate's religious belief, and the appointment in such cases is dependent simply on character and fitness to perform post office work.

Mr. O'DOHERTY: Can the hon. Gentleman say whether the person to whom he gave the appointment was a member of the Royal Irish Constabulary at the date of his application and appointment?

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I do not know whether that was so or not.

Mr. O'DOHERTY: Will the hon. Gentleman inquire?

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I will do so if the hon. Member wishes, but it does not appear to me to be of any consequence.

Mr. O'DOHERTY: Is the hon. Gentleman aware that this is an Irish-speaking district, and that Mr. Byrne was an Irish speaker?

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member cannot argue the question now.

CAHIR (TIPPERARY) POST OFFICE.

Mr. CULLINAN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether representations have been made of the unsuitability of the post office in Cahir, county Tipperary; whether the postal authorities have been negotiating for more suitable premises; and if he can state what steps will be taken to provide a post office in keeping with the requirements of this centre.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: A scheme for providing a Crown post office at Cahir on a site in Church Street has been sanctioned and the acquisition of the ground is in progress.

PROTECTION OF IRISH FISHERIES.

Mr. JOYCE (Limerick): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he can state the number and names of gunboats detailed for the protection of Irish fisheries, and how long ago they were detailed for this work.

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The following gunboats are employed in the protection of Irish fisheries—namely, "Skipjack," "Argus," and "Amelia." The orders under which they are so employed were revised and issued in the year 1889; but gunboats have been employed in Ireland on fishery duty for many years prior to this.

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR: What is the speed of these sailing cruisers?

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The speed of the sailing cruisers varies with the strength and direction of the wind.

MR. FLAVIN: Will the right hon. Gentleman say where these vessels are stationed?

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said he could not say. The duty was about the coast.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: May I ask whether these sailing ships are of the least value against steam trawlers?

*MR. SPEAKER: That question does not arise. The only question on the Paper is with reference to the number and names of the vessels.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND asked if the hon. Gentleman would cause an additional number of cruisers to be sent in view of the fact that three were entirely insufficient.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: That is a question of opinion.

IRISH UNIVERSITY EDUCATION.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether His Majesty's Government, in case they should advise His Majesty to issue a Royal Commission to inquire into and report upon the questions connected with university education in Ireland, will so frame the terms of reference to the Commissioners as to enable them to inquire into the present arrangements of Trinity College, Dublin, and to report whether any and what changes can be made in those arrangements which would induce persons not members of the Protestant Episcopal Church to resort more freely to Trinity College and make it more attractive to them.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (MR. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): No, Sir; I should be reluctant to increase the controversial difficulties of a very difficult and controversial subject by including Trinity College within the scope of such an inquiry.

MR. BRYCE: Will the right hon. Gentleman before coming to a final decision consider the effect on the value of the findings of the Commission which such an exclusion would involve?

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.): Will the First Lord of the Treasury state when the debate on the question of a Roman Catholic University for Ireland will be taken?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The debate on the question that the Speaker leave the Chair will come on immediately after the Budget, and, if the necessary resolutions are obtained on Thursday, the 18th, I should move the Speaker out of the Chair on Friday, the 19th. If it is necessary to take more than one day for the necessary work of the earlier stages of the Budget, then on the Monday following I should move the Speaker out of the Chair.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): Will the right hon, Gentleman consider the desirableness of not finally settling the terms of reference on the subject of university education in Ireland before that debate takes place?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I will consider the propriety of that suggestion.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—EASTER RECESS.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he can now state when the House will rise for the Easter Recess and meet again for the despatch of business.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think probably the most convenient course with regard to the holidays will be to move the resolution on the subject on Tuesday week at the beginning of business. We might then proceed with the private Members' resolutions, and we should return on Thursday, the 18th, when the Chancellor of the Exchequer will introduce his Budget. That will be a more convenient course than returning on the Monday fortnight.

MR. ASQUITH (Fifeshire, E.): Will the Leader of the House state what business will be taken this week.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: To-morrow the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill will be the first order, on Thursday the Third Reading, to be followed by the Army (Annual) Bill, and on Friday the Navy Estimates.

SIR WALTER FOSTER: What will follow the Appropriation Bill on Thursday?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Some small Bill—the Isolation Hospitals Bill, I believe.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GENERAL BOTHA.

MR. ALEXANDER URE (Linlithgowshire): I beg to ask leave to move the adjournment of the House in order to call attention to a definite matter of urgent public importance—namely, the recent negotiations between Commandant Botha and Lord Kitchener.

*__MR. SPEAKER__: I think I ought not to submit the question to the House, and for this reason:—There is on the Paper for to-day the Report of the Vote on Account, which, I admit, is not a very favourable opportunity of raising such a question, but technically it is one. There is also fixed for to-morrow the Second Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill, on which the subject can properly be discussed. When the absence of urgency arises from the existence of other opportunity for immediate discussion it must necessarily be dealt with by the Chair, and, in dealing with this question now as I am doing, I am simply following precedent.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): I wish to call your attention, Mr. Speaker, to the fact that the Report of the Vote on Account is the last of the Paper, and it cannot possibly be reached until a late hour, and with regard to to-morrow, by a long-standing engagement it has been settled that there shall be, on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, a discussion on the Irish Local Government Vote, which will undoubtedly occupy the greater part of the sitting.

*__MR. SPEAKER__: I cannot go into details as to the length of time a debate may last on a particular question, but I am bound to follow the rules of the House.

COMMONS.

Mr. Crombie, Mr. Freeman Thomas, Mr. Jeffreys, Mr. Heywood Johnstone, Mr. William Jones, Mr. A. K. Loyd, and Mr. Montagu were nominated Members of the Select Committee on Commons, with Five Members to be added by the Committee of Selection.—(*Sir William Walrond.*)

NEW BILL.

DEMISE OF THE CROWN.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): The object of the Bill which I ask leave to introduce is to render unnecessary fresh appointments to office on the demise of the Crown. The House may be aware that, according to the doctrine of Common Law, all offices held of the Crown were vacated by the death of the Sovereign, and fresh appointments by the successor were necessary. Until such appointments were made there would be a complete suspension of all functions of the body politic. The extraordinary inconveniences incident to such a rule have led to several qualifications by statute, but except as to commissions in the Army and Navy, as to which the rule was abrogated in 1837, it still prevails with the qualifications to which I have referred. These qualifications may be shortly stated. In 1707, by the Act regulating the succession to the Crown, it was provided that officers in Great Britain and Ireland and the Colonies should continue to hold their commissions for six months after the demise of the Crown, subject, of course, to the power of earlier removal; and in 1830 this period was for the colonies extended to eighteen months. These enactments apply only to British dominions, so that offices under the Crown in protectorates, which are not technically part of the King's dominions for this purpose, and in foreign parts generally, would still be vacated immediately on the demise of the Crown. As regards British dominions, reappointment is still necessary within the term of six months for the United Kingdom, and eighteen months for the colonies. This state of the law is productive of inconvenience, as the House is aware from the numerous questions which have been addressed to Ministers as to the tenure of office by Justices of the Peace; and, indeed, in the case of protectorates, if the rule were acted upon in practice, it would produce an entire paralysis of all government until the pleasure of the new Sovereign should be made known. It has been suggested that the necessity of reappointment in consequence of the demise of the Crown might have a further effect in the case of Ministers of the Crown who are Members of this House. The House is aware that in 1867 it was provided that, in the case of certain Ministerial offices, re-election should not be necessary in the case of a Member who had held one of these offices at the time of his election and afterwards accepted another in lieu of the first. The suggestion is that reappointment to the same office rendered necessary by the demise of the Crown is a *casus omissus*, and that while no re-election would be necessary on appointment to another office, reappointment to the same office might entail re-election. This, of course, would be a somewhat extraordinary state of the law. It may well be doubted whether reappointment under such circumstances would amount to an acceptance of office under the Statute of Anne requiring re-election, but the enactments as they at present stand are far from clear, and opinions may differ as to their effect on this point. I hope the House will agree that the point is not one which should be left in any doubt, and that the proposed Bill, if passed into law, will very properly put an end to a state of things under which conceivably this House might arrive at one conclusion and the Courts of Law at another. The rule that offices are held only during the life of the Sovereign by whom the appointments were made is, in fact, a legacy from days in which constitutional government as it now exists in this country had not been evolved, when, by the death of the Sovereign, Parliament was not only *ipso facto* dissolved, but all executive government, and indeed all judicial functions, were regarded as having their service in the personal will of the Sovereign for the time being. No good reason can be given for the continued existence of such a rule at the present time, and it is proposed by this Bill that the tenure of office should not be affected by the demise of the Crown. The Bill will apply to all offices under the Crown, whether within or without His Majesty's dominions, and it is proposed that it should take effect as from the last demise of the Crown. I have only to add that it will not in the slightest degree affect the prerogative of the Crown to dismiss at pleasure those who hold office, but it will only dispense with the necessity for reappointment. I beg to move.

DEMISE OF THE CROWN.

Bill to amend the Law relating to the holding of offices in case of the demise of the Crown, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Attorney General, Mr. Balfour, and Mr. Solicitor General.

DEMISE OF THE CROWN BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to the holding of offices in the case of the demise of the Crown," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, and to be printed. [Bill 118.]

SUPPLY [23RD MARCH].

(SECOND ALLOTTED DAY.)

Resolutions reported:—

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1901-2.

A. "That 118,625 men and boys be employed for the Sea and Coast Guard Services for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902, including 19,805 Royal Marines."

1. "That a sum, not exceeding £5,760,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expenses of Wages, etc., to Officers, Seamen, and Boys, Coast Guard, and Royal Marines, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

CIVIL SERVICES EXCESSES, 1899-1900.

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £24 2s., be granted to His Majesty to make good Excesses on certain Grants for Civil Services and Revenue Departments, for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1900, namely:—

Class I.

	£	s.	d.
Peterhead Harbour	2	2	0
Rates on Government Property...	10	0	0

Class VI.			
Hospitals and Charities, Ireland	2	0	0
Revenue Departments.			
Post Office	10	0	0
Total...	£24	2	0"

Resolutions read a second time.

First Resolution :—

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Mr. LOUGH (Islington, W.) said he wished to take that opportunity of saying with how much satisfaction he had heard when this Vote was last before the House the statement of the hon. Member for Dundee as to the great amount to which these Estimates had been swollen this year. More especially was he glad to hear that the hon. Gentleman spoke in behalf of the Front Opposition Bench and of many Members who sat behind them. He thought it was quite time for formal expression of dissatisfaction to be given from the Front Opposition Bench about the very heavy Estimates which were becoming customary in this House, and which were apparently accepted without a word of protest. He had heard the First Lord of the Treasury state that there was no such word as economy in the vocabulary of the House now; but a very good speech had been made by the hon. Member for Dundee in behalf of more moderate Navy Estimates. The position they were in in regard to these large Estimates—the increases in the men and money asked for—was unprecedented in the history of the country. At the close of a long and arduous campaign, instead of the nation being allowed to have a time of rest and quiet and an escape from these heavy liabilities, the Estimates laid before the House had reached unparalleled figures. Only four years ago—in 1897—the Army and Navy Estimates amounted to £40,000,000; but this year, apart altogether from the war, they amounted to £64,000,000, or an increase of three-fifths. It seemed to him that the question put by his hon. friend—why these Estimates were so large?—was a very necessary one for them to consider.

*Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member appears to me to be entering on a general discussion. This is the Report of Supply on Vote A 1, and the hon. Gentleman's argument must be confined to that particular Vote.

Mr. LOUGH: I thought there was an understanding that on this Vote, which refers to the increase of the number of men for the Navy, it would be possible to make a general protest against the Estimates if it were thought well to do so.

*Mr. SPEAKER: I am not cognisant of any such arrangement. I only know what the rule of the House is.

Mr. LOUGH said he would try and keep within the limits Mr. Speaker had laid down. He thought they had abundant evidence that this Vote, as well as the Estimates generally, had been brought forward in a spirit of panic for which he could see no reason whatever. He would point out that the standard which was adopted by the House and country, that our Navy as regards men and ships should be equal to the navies of any two European Powers, had been entirely departed from. Now we seemed to be nearly as strong as any three Powers. He knew that that was questioned by the right hon. Baronet the Member for Forest of Dean, but very strong reasons could be given in support of it. It was quite clear, at any rate, that we were doing a great deal more this year than necessary if we were only to maintain the old standard. We were more responsible than any other Power in the world for the great increase in recent years of both naval and military expenditure. That responsibility used to rest with France and Germany, but now it rested upon England, and he questioned whether we were improving our relative position, for the more we spent the more would the other Powers be stimulated to spend. In 1893 the total amount which was spent was £30,000,000; in this year the Government had spent £48,000,000.

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member seems to be entering upon a general discussion, which is not in order upon the Report stage. The discussion on this Vote must be confined to the number of men.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee) asked the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he had considered the question put to him when this matter was before the House in the previous week, namely, the desirability of obtaining some comparative statement as to the strength of the active lists of the navies of the world. When occupying the position which the hon. Gentleman held, some six years ago, he had obtained such a statement, and a very important statement it was, as it enabled the House to compare the active strength of our Navy with that of other navies. He believed that the Intelligence Department of the Admiralty could arrive at a fairly accurate idea, and he felt that the country would be gratified if the hon. Gentleman would promise that such a statement would be prepared.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) disclaimed any intention of occupying the time of the House upon this subject, but said he could not allow the Vote to go without a protest. A very substantial increase of men had been asked for on those voted in the previous year, an increase of 4,000, and it was worthy of the attention of the House to remember that there was no finality about this matter. The numbers asked for increased year by year, and he thought the Government ought to say what their policy was with regard to these naval Estimates. Was it intended to go on year after year for all time asking for increases of men and money, or was there a standard which the Government desired to reach and with which they would be satisfied when it was attained? The Irish Members had every reason to be dissatisfied with these Estimates, because Ireland derived very little benefit from the Navy. There were only three gunboats on the coast of Ireland protecting fisheries, manned by comparatively few men, and it was therefore hard that Ireland should be asked to agree to this large increase, the cost of which would in a great measure fall upon her. Before increasing the number of men in the Navy he would like to hear whether the Government had put themselves into communication with the great self-governing colonies of the Empire, and asked them whether they were prepared to bear any share of the enormous cost which this great increase involved. The colonies paid little or nothing in support of the Navy, and if the Government had not done so it was not unreasonable to ask them to approach the colonies in this matter, and ask them whether they were prepared to bear the expense of, say, 500 of the men asked for in the Vote.

*The SECRETARY to the ADMIRALTY (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) apologised for having omitted to answer the question of the hon. Member for Dundee, who had asked for a Return of the active lists—the *personnel* of the navies of the world. He did not agree with the suggestion that such a Return should be produced. In dealing with the French Navy it would be necessary to include the *Inscription Maritime.* The active list of the Russian Navy did not include the men of the volunteer fleet, while that of the United States contained enlisted men and landsmen. They would be comparing a number of things so absolutely dissimilar that they would greatly mislead the public by issuing a Return of the active *personnel* of the various navies. The Return of the *matériel* published in response to a request of the Member for Forest of Dean was, he thought, a much more satisfactory criterion of the comparative strength of the navies of the world. He was very much in sympathy with the views of the hon. Member for East Clare, and he most fervently desired that we should have contributions from all our great colonies to our Navy as well as to our Army. But he would point out that this was not made easier when an hon. Member described, as the hon. Member for Limerick did describe, the contributions from the colonies to the Army as being composed of "gaol-birds" and "corner boys."

*Mr. H. J. WILSON (Yorkshire, W. R. Holmfirth), who was very indistinctly heard, was understood to say that he associated himself with the opinions expressed by the hon. Member for West Islington that there ought to be greater control of this military and naval expenditure, which was piling up year after year to an enormous extent. Even those who thought it was all very well in times of good trade would find that in times of depression it would inflict a great burden upon the country. He maintained that it was an entirely unnecessary, extravagant, and wild expenditure, and he should protest against it by his vote.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.) asked how the Vote for the increased number of men stood with regard to firemen and stokers. He pointed out that these men had a strong and natural disinclination to work the Belleville or any water-tube boilers, having regard to the constant accidents which were happening and the danger attendant on working them, and he asked to know whether a refusal on the part of these men to work these boilers would entail any punishment upon them.

MR. KEARLEY (Devonport) said he wished to address a question to the First Lord of the Treasury. When the Army Estimates were before the House, the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War stated that one of his proposals was an increase in the number of men in the Army; that this was to relieve them of the responsibility of manning the coaling stations, and that the Admiralty would naturally take over that responsibility. The Secretary to the Admiralty the other day gave them to understand that the Admiralty viewed that proposal with disfavour. There was no doubt that the Admiralty and the War Department were at conflict on this very important matter. It was an open secret that the late Board of Admiralty were adverse to this proposal, and he could certainly say that the Board previous to the late Board of Admiralty were hostile to it. The position was this: If the War Department was not going to relieve the Navy of this responsibility, the new scheme would not increase the effective force by 5,000 men, as the Secretary for War foreshadowed the other day. If the Admiralty meant to stand firm and not be cajoled into taking over the responsibility, he thought this was the opportunity to ask the First Lord of the Treasury to give the House and the country some enlightenment as to what was likely to happen on this very important question.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): When my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War referred to what he considered the desirability—and what from many points of view is the desirability—of handing over the garrisoning of coaling stations to the Admiralty, he did not state, and he would not have been justified in stating, that the matter is one which has been finally decided upon. It was still under discussion. As the hon. Gentleman is aware, there is a great variety of opinion upon the subject, and probably neither the Admiralty nor the War Office is very desirous of having handed over to them the somewhat ungrateful task of garrisoning these naval fortresses. It would be impossible for me to make any definite statement as to a policy which is still undecided, but of course we cannot wait for our number of men for the Navy until that decision has been taken. I do not think this matter strictly relevant to the Vote before the House.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs) said the reasons which the Secretary to the Admiralty gave for not making a comparison between the British Navy and those of other Powers showed clearly how well the British Navy compared with others. That being the case, he would ask the hon. Gentleman whether, under the circumstances, there was really any justification for this enormous increase in the number of men the House was asked to sanction. He wished also to ask why the Government did not do a little more in the way of developing the fishery harbours. If this country were ever unfortunately engaged in a maritime war, it would have to depend to a great extent for its reserves of men upon the seafaring class, and more particularly the fishermen. Could not something of permanent utility be done in that direction, which would be an additional source of strength to the country in time of war, instead of making large additions from time to time in the numerical strength of the Navy?

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): I do not think the answer of the First Lord of the Treasury is quite as full as we might desire. I should like to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether the number of men we are now voting for the Navy does or does not include the number of men that will be required if the Admiralty take over the garrisoning of the coaling stations? The Secretary to the Admiralty has said that the Secretary of State for War was expressing only a personal opinion on the expediency of the Navy taking charge of these stations. I should assume, unless I am told to the contrary, that this Vote is on the basis that they really do not contemplate taking charge of the coaling stations. That is a curious position, because the plan of the Secretary of State for War of reinforcing his Regular troops so as to have 120,000 men always ready to go abroad depends to a certain degree upon the Navy discharging this duty. The hon. Gentleman in charge of the Vote says the Navy does not want this duty, but the House ought not to pass the Vote until we have a clear understanding as to who is going to garrison the coaling stations.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think I can satisfy the right hon. Gentleman. In any case there will be no change in the course of the present year.

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: Then what becomes of your Army plan?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No one has suggested that the whole Army scheme should be carried out in the next twelve months.

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: What I understand is that the number of the Regular forces which may be required to go abroad at any moment depends on the Navy taking over the charge of the coaling stations. Therefore we are to assume that for the present the Navy will not take over the coaling stations. The next time we have an opportunity of examining the Secretary of State for War we must ask him what has become of that part of his plan, which was certainly assumed to be most essential to the efficiency of the force of 120,000 men which is to be ready for all eventualities. The scheme will at least be lame of one foot.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.) said it seemed to him extraordinary that the War Office and the Admiralty should not have made up their minds on this somewhat important matter. The difficulty of getting men was the crux of both positions, and the country and the world were taken into the confidence of the Government in a way that indicated there was a difference of opinion between the two Departments. He regretted that anything had been said about this until the Government were in a position to state that some final decision had been come to. It was hardly in accordance with the past traditions of the Government when there was this difference of opinion that they should state it in the House.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY (Yorkshire, Shipley) said charges had been made against the Government by the Member for West Monmouthshire and the Member for West Islington which were a little difficult to understand in their contradictoriness. They were told over and over again that the House should be taken into the confidence of the Government, that the Government should not come there with a cut-and-dried scheme, but that the House should have the opportunity of debating the scheme and advising the Government according to their collective wisdom. Then hon. Members availed themselves of the opportunity when it arose for attacking the Government because there was apparently a want of cohesion between the Departments. It seemed to him, having regard to the number of hon. Members in the House who had Service experience, that it was most desirable that the Government should take the sense of the House upon the question whether or not the coaling stations should be dealt with by men belonging to the Army or Navy. Therefore he ventured to think, now that the question was open for debate, it was one well worthy the attention of the House. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouthshire appeared to suggest that if these men, numbering about 7,000 altogether, were not borne by the Navy, the whole of the Army scheme was destroyed.

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: I said it would be lame of one foot

Sir FORTESCUE FLANNERY said one foot was half the power of the Army. There was obvious exaggeration in the suggestion of the right hon. Gentleman, which he was sure the House would appreciate almost the moment it was made. It seemed to him that the Admiralty Board would be ill advised if they were to deal with this question without the fullest consideration. That the Service Members were capable of assisting the Admiralty Board he felt perfectly certain. He wished to refer to a matter which the Secretary to the Admiralty left largely untouched in his reply the other night—the question of the engineers of the Fleet. There was an amount of quiet discontent among the engineers, but they would continue to do their duty, notwithstanding the apparent want of sympathy with them which was shown by the Admiralty Board. He urged that the Board should grant them the one privilege of rank which they asked. This matter was not new. He believed it was thoroughly understood by the Secretary to the Admiralty. He would remind the hon. Member that there had been inquiries extending over several years in regard to this question. Lord Lansdowne, in a recent speech apropos of Army doctors, used these pregnant words—

> "It has sometimes been said, what does rank matter? Is not the title of doctor or surgeon by itself to be regarded as a title, which any one should be proud to bear without further adjuncts? I think the answer to this question is that in the Army rank is the outward and visible sign of consideration and authority, and it is necessary in the military profession that a man should have a military stamp to distinguish him and to secure him his proper place among his comrades."

Admiral Sir J. O. Hopkins, who was formerly a Lord of the Admiralty, and lately served as Commander-in-Chief on the Mediterranean Station, had used these words—

> "And now let me touch on the vexed question of the position of the engineers, and suggest that the time has arrived to accord them executive rank. Their duties are purely executive, and should be recognised as such, and the recognition cannot, in my opinion, clash in any single instance with the other executives."

The Secretary to the Admiralty had stated that there was no possibility of engineers, if given executive rank, ranking in the Navy in such a way that they would be able to assume, ultimately, executive command of a ship. There was no suggestion or desire on the part of engineers that they should be able to do so. All they had asked for was that they should have the same relation to the men under them as the marine officer had to the men under his command. That was the one thing which the engineers were pressing for. It was the universal feeling amongst engineers of the Fleet. This was not a matter of philanthropy or of grievance; it was rather a matter of making the Fleet absolutely efficient by getting the very best men for a position with so large a responsibility, and keeping them contented. He did not wish to press this matter *ad nauseam.* The matter was thoroughly understood by the Secretary to the Admiralty, and he felt certain that if a reasonable amount of time was allowed to the Board of Admiralty, with the co-operation of the hon. Gentleman, some reform would be made. He regretted, however, from communications which had reached him that the statement made by the hon. Gentleman was so little satisfactory and so little encouraging that he thought it would be desirable to press the matter upon him once more.

*Sir JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): I entirely sympathise with my hon. friend's contention, and I think the change must be made sooner or later—the sooner the better. I merely wish to point out, however, that there is no right on the part of the marine officer on board ship to exercise such functions. The captain can delegate to the marine officer the power to inflict punishments for minor offences, and that, I understand, is all my hon. friend claims on behalf of the engineers. The engineers are becoming so important a unit in the Navy that you ought to approach this question in a somewhat larger spirit. My opinion is that if they had this executive authority, you ought to organise the engineer branch as a unit in itself, the same as the Royal Engineers in the Army, and the marine force in the Navy. The question should be approached from the point of view rather of the

Service than of the engineer. In the First Lord's statement there is a very remarkable passage with regard to the wastage in the marine force. He points out that that wastage is greater than it has been for a great many years, but he does not tell us what is the wastage of the executive and engineering branches of the Navy. Is the wastage in the marine branch on the increase, and is it greater now than it has ever been? If so, can the Secretary to the Admiralty give any reason for it? I am informed that it is because the marine force has not been kept up in the same proportion with the Navy proper as formerly, and that instead of, as in former times, the marine spending most of his time on shore, and the smaller part at sea, he now spends more of his time at sea relatively to his time on shore. I am told, but it is a difficult thing to establish, that as a matter of fact, if you compare the gunnery and torpedo branch of the Navy with the marine artillery or marine branch, it will be found that you are now keeping the marine branch at sea longer than the bluejacket branch. That is not a right state of things. I therefore merely ask my hon. friend whether he can throw any light on the question of wastage, and give us any information as to its cause, and whether it is exceptionally great in that particular branch of the Navy in comparison with the executive and engineering branches.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 303; Noes, 52. (Division List No. 96.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allen, C. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Asher, Alexander
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bain, Col. James Robert
Baird, John George Alex.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Beach, Rt. Hn. W. W. B. (Hants.
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Black, Alexander William
Blundell, Col. Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Boulnois, Edmund
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Midd'x)
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Broadhurst, Henry
Brookfield, Col. Montagu
Brown, Alex. H. (Shropshire)
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John C. Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin, Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Crombie, John William
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dewar, T R (T'r H'mlets, S. Geo.
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, James H.
Dunn, Sir William
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Edwards, Frank
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elibank, Master of
Elliot, Hon. A Ralph Douglas
Emmott, Alfred
Faber, George Denison
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edwd.
Fenwick, Charles
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose-
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Sir M. (Lond. Univ.)
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. V. (St. Albans)
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gordon, Maj Evans-(Tr. H'ml'ts
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Grant, Corrie
Green, Walford D (Wednesbury
Greene, Sir E W. (B'y S. Edm'nds
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.)
Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (Mid'x
Harcourt, Rt Hon. Sir William
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harris, F Leverton (Tynemouth
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne, Rt-Hon. Charles Seale-
Heath, James (Staffords. N.W.
Henderson, Alexander
Hoare, Edw Brodie (Hampstead
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)

Sir John Colomb.

Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.
Holland, William Henry
Hope, J F (Sheffield, Brightside)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David Brynmor (Swans'a
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W (Salop)
Kimber, Henry
Kinloch, Sir John George Smyth
Knowles, Lees
Lambert, George
Lambton, Hon. Fred. Wm.
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lee, Capt. A H. (Hants. Fareh'm
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leighton, Stanley
Leng, Sir John
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Levy, Maurice
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lough, Thomas
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Lyttleton, Hon. Alfred
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Wm. (Cornwall)
Malcolm, Ian
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Markham, Arthur Basil
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfries.
Middlemore, John Throgmortn
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Rbt. Jas. (Shropshire)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Chas. (Breconshire)
Morris, Hn. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Sir Charles M (Durham
Palmer, Geo. Wm. (Reading)
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Gilbert
Partington, Oswald
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robt. Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Philipps, John Wynford
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Rea, Russell
Reid, James (Greenock)
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green
Rigg, Richard
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson, Rt. Hn Col. Edw. J.
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Smith, Jas. Parker (Lanarks.)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spencer, Rt Hn C. R (Northants)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stevenson, Francis S.
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Strachey, Edward
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomas, F. Freeman- (Hastings
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Ure, Alexander
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C E H (Sheffield
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Weir, James Galloway
Welby, Lt.-Col A C E (Taunton)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whiteley, George (York, W. R.)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Rt Hn J Powell- (Birn
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wodehouse, Hn. Armine (Essex
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Ayes—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Ambrose, Robert
Blake, Edward
Boyle, James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carvill, Patrick G. Hamilton
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Delany, William
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hayden, John Patrick
Joyce, Michael
Labouchere, Henry
Leamy, Edmund
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mooney, John J.
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, J. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Power, Patrick Joseph

Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)

Sullivan, Donal
Thompson, E. C. (Monaghan, N.
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir Thomas Esmonde and
Captain Donelan.

Second resolution :—

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

MR. KEARLEY : In connection with this Vote I want to put before the Secretary to the Admiralty what I deem to be a practical point with reference to recruiting. At the present moment the Navy is recruited in those districts where the Service is held to be a hereditary service. In the constituency I represent, fathers and sons have for generations gone into the Navy, and it is the same in other naval ports. The suggestion I make is that the Admiralty should consider the advisability of recruiting by recruiting officers in country districts. The country boy has many advantages. He is healthy, and so on, and for the stoker class especially I would suggest there are many advantages to be gained by sending recruiting officers into the country districts. If a boy in a country district wishes to join the Navy, he has nowhere to apply except possibly to a clergyman or at the police station, where you circulate recruiting notices. Neither of these is the proper medium to which a boy would be likely to apply, but if there was a petty officer recruiting in an agricultural district, say one officer to each county, I am perfectly certain you would get shoals of recruits. But it would be necessary to send a man down into the country in uniform. A country boy's idea of a sailor is a man in serge and so on. He would not understand a cloth coat. His only conception of a sailor is a man wearing blue serge and the ordinary get-up of a sailor. I make the suggestion because I think it is a practical one. There is no getting away from the fact that the Navy is the more popular Service. The Army may have some complaint because you are poaching on their preserves, but they are not so likely to get such a large number of men from the country districts into the Army, whereas if a man goes away from a country district into the Navy and puts in his full time, as the majority of them do, he comes back with a good pension and is a good advertisement for the Navy. You are wanting 4,000 or 5,000 recruits, and I should be glad to hear whether the hon. Gentleman thinks this suggestion a practical one.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB said he desired to direct the attention of the Secretary to the Admiralty to the annoyance and vexation that many naval officers were put to by the in and out system of full pay and half pay. He would not ask for an immediate answer, but would give an illustration which would convey the point he wished to make. A ship came home, and was paid off. An officer got leave, and was on full pay for a certain period. He was then put on half pay, although he was about to be appointed to a guardship on full pay. He would give an instance of an officer at Chatham who, although it was known he was about to be appointed to a ship at Devonport, was put on half pay for a day or two previous to his appointment in order that he, and not the country, should pay his travelling expenses to Devonport. It was a constant trick on the part of the Admiralty to put an officer on half pay for a few days, with the result that he had to pay his own travelling expenses to join a ship. That led to great annoyance, and was very unjust. He merely wished to publicly direct the attention of the Secretary of the Admiralty to the way in which things were manipulated at the Admiralty with a view to justice being given to officers in the circumstances he had mentioned.

MR. FLYNN said he desired to make a few observations of a general character, and also a few remarks of a local character. There was an increase of practically a quarter of a million in the amount of the appropriations in aid, and surely they were entitled to ask when finality in such an increasing expense would be reached. If the House voted nearly six millions of money, in another year or two the alarmists would start fresh sensational rumours about England being on the brink of invasion, there would be sensational pamphlets and paragraphs, and another increase of a million or two would be asked for, and Estimates already swollen would be still further swollen. There should be a protest against the continual increase of the Estimates, and it was time that the representatives of the taxpayers raised their voices against it. The Admiralty was stirred by every league and movement and plunged into greater and greater extravagance. Notwithstanding Ireland's enormous contribution to the Navy the Irish Members could not obtain from the Secretary to the Admiralty a guarantee that ships other than old tubs would be sent to protect the Irish fisheries; yet Australia was well provided with ships, although it contributed only £30,000 to the expenses of the Navy.

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The contribution is £156,000.

Mr. FLYNN said there was a contribution of £14,000 in another Vote, and the wealthy and populous Australian colonies only paid the interest on the amount spent of the construction of the ships they had. Here was a contribution of only £30,000 from Australia, while that from Ireland was two and a quarter millions, and yet they could not obtain from the Admiralty the necessary gunboats for the protection of Irish fisheries.

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! The question of the Irish fisheries does not come within this Vote. I would further remind the hon. Member that it is not in order to raise the question of the financial relations of Ireland on Report of Supply on the number of men for the Navy.

Mr. FLYNN said he was only drawing a lesson, and not discussing the financial relations of Ireland. He was calling attention under Sub-head K to the very small contributions given by Australia and India to the support of the Navy; and he thought that the Admiralty should direct the attention of the Australian colonies, now federated into a mighty Empire, with enormous resources, increasing wealth and population, to the fact that they ought to contribute a larger share than they did to the cost of the Navy. He failed to see why they should not.

*Sir JOHN COLOMB, on a point of order, said that the sum of money contributed by the colonies was on Vote 16, and could be discussed when that Vote was reached.

Mr. FLYNN said that the hon. and gallant Gentleman was quite wrong. It was quite possible that there was another appropriation dealing with maintenance, but he was looking at Vote K. The other Vote was for a sum of £14,000 odd, payable by way of interest on capital expenditure for the construction of the ships of the Australian squadron. His point was that the contribution of the Australian colonies to the maintenance of the Navy was altogether inadequate in view of the increasing taxation in this country.

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: In reply to the hon. Member for North Cork, I have already said all that there is at present to say in regard to the question of colonial contributions to the Navy. The hon. Member for Devonport spoke of increasing the facilities for recruiting for the Navy in the inland counties. I think it is proved that even in the western counties we, as a rule, get the boys for the Navy from the inland and agricultural districts rather than from the sea-side towns. The sea-side boys generally go into the fishing fleet. The boys who enter the Navy do so more from having read books than from seeing ships. As a matter of fact, I am happy to say that at present we have experienced no serious difficulty in obtaining a full supply of well-qualified boys for the service of the Fleet.

Mr. JOYCE (Limerick) said that the hon. Gentleman the Secretary to the Admiralty had stated in answer to a question put to him that there were five coastguard gunboats to watch the Irish fisheries. He thought from his knowledge of the subject that that was a mistake——

*Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member will find an opportunity of dealing with that question on a later Vote.

Mr. JOYCE: I defer to your judgment on this matter, Mr. Speaker. I would not defer to anybody else's judgment in this House. But I find on this Vote of five millions a portion of the money is for the payment of the coastguard vessels.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: These are not coastguard vessels.

MR. JOYCE said he would raise his point at the proper time if he was not in order now. But he found one portion of this five millions was for the victualling of the Navy——

*MR. SPEAKER: That is a separate Vote. The question before the House is merely that of the pay of the men, and if the hon. Member wants to say anything on that he will be relevant.

MR. ARCHDALE (Fermanagh, N.) wished to call attention to a most deserving class in the Navy—the boatswains. Four years ago the Admiralty had given the gunners an extra pay of eighteenpence a day, and he saw no reason why the equally deserving class of boatswains should not have had the same money. He confessed that in his own time in the Service, when all the ships were masted, the boatswains were of more use than now, but what with the increase in education the boatswains were in these days as well up in gunnery and torpedo work as the warrant officers, and he pressed on the Secretary to the Admiralty to give them the same rate of pay as the warrant officers. He also wished the Admiralty would send to the West Coast of Ireland a training ship to induce the boys there to join the Navy. In his own county he had done the best he could to induce boys to join the Navy, which he thought one of the finest services in the world; and he believed a training ship in Loch Swilly would do a great deal of good.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.) said that Irish Members looked at the question of the Navy from a different point of view from other hon. Members who regarded it from the purely British or colonial standpoint. Irish Members had unfortunately different interests to protect. It had been said that the cost of the Navy was merely an insurance for the safe carrying on of British trade, but Ireland had no foreign trade to protect, and he thought the colonies, with their expanding trade, ought to contribute more than they did to these gigantic Votes.

COMMANDER YOUNG (Berkshire, Wokingham) wished to re-echo what had been said by his hon. and gallant friend in regard to the pay of the warrant officers in the Navy; and he felt certain that the Secretary to the Admiralty would give those interested in this subject an opportunity of laying their views fully before him on this matter. He hoped the filling up of the ranks of the chief warrant officers would not be so long delayed in the future as in the past. For instance, the chief boatswain or the chief carpenter standing on the list first for promotion ought to be promoted almost immediately; for, if not, he might die in the meantime and his widow would lose all the advantages of pension of the rank to which he ought long before to have been promoted. The hon. Member for Devonport had spoken of the advantages of recruiting for the Navy in the rural districts, and expressed the hope that it would be extended. He should suggest that when the Admiralty sent an officer to recruit they should send one likely "to go down." A man came to his district who could not spin a yarn, sing a song, nor dance a hornpipe, and objected to sit up late at night. From what he heard, the people in the neighbourhood said that if the Admiralty could not send a better man they had better send none at all.

*MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty) desired to support the hon. Member who had been urging the importance of going to new recruiting districts for the Navy. There were no better districts than the coasts of the United Kingdom, and no better material could be found than on the north and north-west coast of Scotland. The Admiralty had been good enough to promise that the "Northampton" training ship should visit Stornoway in the autumn, but that was not enough—a training ship should be permanently stationed in the district. A large sum was down on the Vote for the coastguard. He would ask that the coastguard should be instructed to report cases of illegal trawling, and he thought the Naval

Reserve at Stornoway should be provided with something better than model guns.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

*MR. WEIR said he was only anxious that the Naval Reserve men should be allowed the opportunity of becoming expert gunners.

*MR. O'DOHERTY (Donegal, N.) joined in the protest of the hon. Member for North Cork that the self-governing colonies did not contribute to the Navy the same amount in proportion to their resources and population as Ireland did. Ireland was an agricultural country which fed herself, and consequenrly she had no commerce to protect; and therefore the supremacy of the British Navy was quite immaterial to them in Ireland. The hon. Member for North Fermanagh had said that they in Ireland were interested in this Vote as the Government had stationed a training ship in Lough Swilly. The constituency he represented extended all round Lough Swilly, and he had been there quite recently, but he saw no training ship, unless it was one of the new invisible submarine boats. Ireland gained nothing from the expenditure on the Navy. Not many months ago the Corporation and people of Derry sent a petition to the Admiralty asking that the Channel Fleet should visit Lough Foyle—a request which had also been made the previous year—but nothing had come of it except a formal acknowledgment of the receipt of the letter. The suggestion of the hon. Member for Ross-shire that the coastguard should take some share in the looking after illegal trawling had much to commend it, and he hoped the Secretary to the Admiralty would take note of it. His constituency was altogether maritime, and he had to complain of the large number of English steam trawlers which were investing their waters.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is not in order in debating the Irish Fisheries on this Vote.

*MR. O'DOHERTY said that with due respect to the Speaker the cost of the coastguards was on this Vote, and he thought the coastguards should be asked to report on any illegal trawling that took place in local waters. The coastguards, moreover, had a great deal of leisure time, and they could carry out the recommendations of the Commission on Salmon Fisheries without much fatigue to themselves.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That does not arise on this Vote.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.) said that as the Government had refused to send any portion of the Fleet to protect the Irish fishing industry, they were perfectly justified in asking whether the coastguard, which was on this Vote, could not be employed in that duty.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member cannot go into the question of employing the coastguard in protecting Irish fisheries. That is a matter which comes under some other Vote.

MR. FLAVIN bowed to Mr. Speaker's ruling, but he would ask what were the duties of the coastguard? Were Irish Members not justified in saying that if their constituents were compelled to contribute a portion of the annual payment to the coastguard, they were entitled to claim an explanation of what their duties were, and whether these duties could not be extended to the protection of the Irish fisheries when they were refused protection from any other sources. Knowing the condition of the Irish fisheries[they, had made application year after year for protection——

MR. SPEAKER: I have told the hon. Gentleman that he cannot go into the question of illegal trawlers.

MR. FLAVIN said that with all due respect he was not going into that question. He was only pointing out that if it was necessary to prevent a long discussion on this Vote, more than ordinary attention should be paid to asking the coastguard to afford some protection to the Irish fisheries. If he was in order he would like to ask what justification there was for increasing the number of men or ships in the Navy. What were they going to receive in return for this vast amount of money? None of His Majesty's ships were either built or repaired in Ireland. Perhaps a certain number of men were recruited there, but that was an unwise thing, in his opinion, from an Irish point of view.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Gentleman is entirely out of order, and I really must ask him to conform to my ruling.

MR. FLAVIN: I most respectfully bow to your ruling, but, as the £5,000,000 is part and parcel of the naval expenditure of this country, I thought I was entitled to discuss it.

*MR. SPEAKER: The question is whether £5,000,000 should be voted for the pay of officers and men. The hon. Member is now going into the comparative sizes of the navies of Britain and other countries, and other matters which do not arise on this Vote.

MR. FLAVIN said he was not going into an elaborate discussion of the whole question, but he thought he might be justified in saying that the expenditure was not warranted, considering the revenue of the country as compared with the naval expenditure. The Nationalist Members considered that they were justified in protesting against all such expenditure. The people whom they represented received nothing in return for the money. They had asked for the protection of their fisheries, and that had been refused, and the only thing the Nationalist Members could do was to get up and protest night after night, and session after session against the expenditure of money. As long as the House continued to refuse to do justice to the fair claims of Ireland there was no other course open to them but to harp away until that country was allowed to manage her own affairs.

MR. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green) said that until the Irish Members got a more sympathetic answer from the Secretary to the Admiralty in regard to the appointment of Roman Catholic chaplains in the Navy it would be a very unwise thing to take any lad of that faith from his home and put him in the Navy, where he would not get the consolation of his religion. This Vote was asked for the purpose of providing an increased number of men, and he thought they had a perfect right to ask how many of the men would be apportioned to Ireland to assist in protecting the Irish fisheries.

Question put.

The House divided: Ayes, 318; Noes, 56. (Division List No. 97.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Aird, Sir John
Allen, C. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Allhusen, Augustus Hy. Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Asher, Alexander
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herb. Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r.
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Beach, Rt. Hn. W. W. B. (Hants
Bell, Richard
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Black, Alexander William
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boulnois, Edmund
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Broadhurst, Henry
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Brown, Alexander H. (Shropsh.
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, H. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dewar, T. R. (T'r H'ml'ts, S Geo.
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duke, Henry Edward
Duncan, James H.

Dunn, Sir William
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Edwards, Frank
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fenwick, Charles
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Sir Michael (Lond. Univ.
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Furness, Sir Christopher
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Gladstone, Rt. Hn Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'r H'ml'ts
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Green, Walford D. (Wednsbury
Greene, Sir E. W (B'ry Edm'nds
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.)
Gretton, John
Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (Middx
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. L. (Tynemouth)
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Heath, James (Staffords., N. W.
Henderson, Alexander
Hoare, Edw Brodie (Hampstead
Hobhouse, C. E. H (Bristol, E.)
Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.
Holland, William Henry
Hope, J. F (Sheffield, Brightside
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, Capt J (Kent, Farersh.
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton, John (Yorks. N. R)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David Brynmor (Swans'a
Jones, William (Carnavonsh.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Kinloch, Sir John George Smyth
Knowles, Lees
Lambert, George
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants. Fareham
Legge, Col Hon. Heneage
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leighton, Stanley
Leng, Sir John
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Levy, Maurice
Lockwood, Lt.-Col A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Lowther, Rt. Hon. James (Kent)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W G Ellison
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, W J H (Dumfriesshire
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milton, Viscount
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Montagu, Hon. J. S. (Hants.)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morgan, J. L. (Carmarthen)
Morrison, John Archibald
Morton, A. H. A. (Deptford)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. W (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
Palmer, George W. (Reading)
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Gilbert
Partington, Oswald
Peel, Hon. William Robert W.
Pemberton, John S. G.
Penn, John
Philipps, John Wynford
Pierpoint, Robert
Pirie, Duncan V.
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Price, Robert John
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Rasch, Maj. Frederic Carne
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Rea, Russell
Reid, James (Greenock)
Reid, Sir R. T. (Dumfries)
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rentoul, James Alexander
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ridley, S. F. (Bethal Green)
Rigg, Richard
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Charles T.
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Col. Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel W.
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, E.)
Smith, H C (Northmb. Tyneside
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C R (Northants
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stevenson, Francis S.
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strachey, Edward
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Rt Hn J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thornborn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Ure, Alexander
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Weir, James Galloway
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C E (Taunton
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notts.
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whiteley, George (York, W. R.)
Whiteley, H (Ashton und. Lyne
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid.
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wodehouse, Rt Hn. E. R. (Bath)

Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Ambrose, Robert
Blake, Edward
Boyle, James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Delany, William
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Hardie, J. K. (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hayden, John Patrick
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Joyce, Michael
Leamy, Edmund
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mooney, John J.
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipp'rary Mid
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, J. P.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sullivan, Donal
Thompson, E. C. (Monaghan, N.
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

Ordered, That the Resolution which, upon the 21st day of this instant March, was reported from the Committee of Supply, and which was then agreed to by the House, be now read.

"That a number of Land Forces, not exceeding 450,000, all ranks, be maintained for the Service of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland at Home and Abroad, excluding His Majesty's Indian Possessions, during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902."

Ordered, That leave be given to bring in a Bill to provide, during Twelve Months, for the Discipline and Regulation of the Army; and that Mr. Secretary Brodrick, Mr. Arnold-Forster, and Lord Stanley do prepare and bring it in.

Third Resolution agreed to.

ARMY (ANNUAL) BILL.

"To provide, during Twelve Months, for the Discipline and Regulation of the Army," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, and to be printed. [Bill 119.]

SUPPLY [19TH MARCH].

Resolution reported:—

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS REVISED SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1900–1901.

"That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £893,316, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the following Civil Services and Revenue Departments, namely:—

CIVIL SERVICES.

	£
Class V.	
Vote 3. Colonial Services	212,300
Vote 2. British Protectorates in Uganda, etc....	200,000
Class VII.	
Vote 1. Temporary Commissions ...	9,000
Class II.	
Vote 23. Stationery and Printing ...	110,000
Vote 27. Secretary for Scotland, Office of	100
Class III.	
Vote 2. Miscellaneous Legal Expenses	400
Class IV.	
Vote 5. Wallace Collection	3,333
Vote 8. London University	70
Class V.	
Vote 1. Diplomatic and Consular Services	15,800
Vote 6. Treasury Chest Fund ...	66,108
Class VI.	
Vote 1. Superannuation and Retired Allowances	10,000
Vote 5. Savings Banks and Friendly Societies Deficiencies	51,758
Class VII.	
Vote 2. Miscellaneous Expenses ...	4,600
Vote 6. Local Loans Fund	4,337
Vote 7. Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York (Visit to the Colonies)	20,000
Vote 8. Funeral of Her late Majesty	35,500

REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

	£
Vote 2. Inland Revenue	20,000
Vote 3. Post Office	130,000
Vote 4. Post Office Packet Service	10
Total Civil Services and Revenue Departments...	£893,316"

Resolution read a second time.

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT said: I rise for the purpose of objecting to this Vote, and I think it will be for the advantage of the House that we should have your advice and decision as to the unusual form in which this Vote has been presented. It is a Vote of nearly a million of money, and it presents itself, I believe, for the first time, in the form of a Vote consolidating a number of classes of the Civil Service Estimates. Quite apart from the merits of that change, what I should like to hear your opinion upon is, under what authority and in what manner substantial and serious changes in the practice of the House are made. The circumstances will be fresh in the recollection of many Members. I do not wish to attribute any evil intention to those who made it, but this change was made in a manner which gave substantially no notice, and I venture to say it took all the non-official Members of the House by surprise. I have had some years experience of the Estimates, and I myself derived no information of any serious change having been made from reading the Paper. If such a change were necessary, I venture to suggest that it would have been proper that there should have been, as we often have in regard to Bills and Parliamentary Papers, a memorandum telling Members of the House that such a change had been made. What I wish to have your opinion upon is this, Has the Executive Government the power at a moment, with or without notice, and without consulting the House generally, to alter the established practice of Parliament? One of the most important duties of Members of the House is to watch the expenditure of the country, and that has been done by the aid of certain rules which have been made in regard to the form of Supply. Supply has been divided into classes which the House may conveniently consider, deal with, and vote upon, and, that being the established practice, this matter of form is vital to the control by the House over Supply. By what authority are serious changes to be made in the practice? If the Government can consolidate half a dozen or a dozen classes, they may consolidate the whole of them, and if such a principle were to be laid down, then the Executive Government can practically defeat the whole control by the House over Supply by consolidating the classes. By that principle you may consolidate the Army, Navy, and Civil Service Estimates in one Estimate and closure it. In considering what is to be the policy, when making changes, we must consider the extreme case which might arise under such authority. No man is better acquainted than you, Sir, with the sound principle in the Courts of Equity that the practice of the Court is the law of the Court. And so the practice of the High Court of Parliament is the law of Parliament until it is altered by proper authority. Is it not sound Parliamentary and constitutional law that no established practice of this House should be changed without giving the House sufficient notice and allowing us to give our opinion upon it? I have observed, as some mitigation of the course taken by the right hon. Gentleman, that when he was asked by one of his own supporters whether this was to be a regular practice or whether it was only done under extreme pressure, the right hon. Gentleman said nobody but a lunatic would ever dream of its being made a precedent. I hope that we may, with your assistance, have it laid down that this is to be no precedent in the future. So much then for the first part. I want to ask your opinion upon, Sir, what I am contending for, and it is a most important thing, and that is, that no change shall be made in the established rules of this House, especially with regard to the question of Supply, without giving the House of Commons an adequate opportunity of discussing the change. We know it was done without notice being given to the House of Commons, but what I should like to know is whether it was done on your authority. It was done on Friday night, after the Government had obtained a great many Votes with the consent of the House. This is a matter which lies at the root of the authority and character of the House of Commons. We are told, indeed, that this House is falling in the estimation of the country. I think it is our business to maintain the rights of the House in the face of the country.

Now I pass for a moment to the merits of the thing itself. What is the merit in itself of consolidating a dozen separate Votes on each one of which the House ought to have a right of discussion and dividing. Although the Chairman of Committees has already ruled in Committee that we might discuss each item and divide upon it, we have no security that we shall be allowed to do so, if a Minister is at liberty to move the closure as soon as the Vote has been presented, and that motion can only be disposed of by a single division. If the principle laid down by the Chairman of Committees is conceded then we might discuss and divide on each item of the Vote, but there is no security for it, because the closure may be moved when six out of twelve items have been discussed, or it can be moved on the whole. If you once give the Government such authority in this matter without safeguards, you give them power to prevent discussion and division on any or all of these Votes. I venture, Sir, to submit that that is a question for you to advise the House as to whether or not changes of this magnitude and of this vital importance can be made, simply upon the suggestion of the Government, without adequate notice being given to the House. Whether there is any limit whatever, if it be so, to our power to test the feeling of the House by discussion and division, and whether this course might be taken in another year without there being an opportunity for that discussion and division upon these matters, which have hitherto been the universal practice of the House. It is a matter of vital importance, having regard to the position in which it places the House, and I venture to ask you, Sir—your authority stands much higher than even that of the Chairman of Committees upon this subject—if you will give the House the benefit of your judgment as to how far we have the power of resisting the autocracy of the Government in this matter of Committee of Supply and Report of Supply. It would be a very useful thing for the House of Commons to have an authoritative ruling from you.

Sir William Harcourt.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I understand that the right hon. Gentleman was putting a question upon a point of order. He has put several questions so far as I can gather upon that point of order, and, that being so, perhaps I may be permitted to put a question also.

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT said it was not strictly a point of order; it was rather asking the direction and advice of the Speaker on a change of procedure.

*MR. SPEAKER: I considered that the right hon. gentleman was raising a point of order.

*MR. A. J. BALFOUR: On the point of order, Sir, may I ask whether it is not the fact that the consolidation of which the right hon. Gentleman has spoken did not place any further obstacle in the way of the Committee coming to a decision upon any item in the manner with which they were all familiar in dealing with Army and Navy Estimates. Is there not a distinct parallel?

MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): They are all under one official head.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: That is true, although the remark is irrelevant. I would like to ask a question with regard to the practice of the House. As I understand the right hon. Gentleman's question to you, Sir, he desired to know whether it was in the power of the Government to alter the form in which the Estimates are to be presented without consulting the House. I will ask whether it is not the immemorial practice and tradition to do so. It is not in the power of the Government to make any great change in the Orders of this House, and I admit fully and amply that it would be a serious matter indeed if there were power to effect any great change in the Orders of this House without the fullest notice and the fullest opportunity being given to discuss the alteration. I grant that fully, but I will ask you, Sir, whether at the time this change was effected there was not such a congestion of Estimates that unless this change or some other not less violent had been effected it would have been impossible to carry out the law and practice of Parliament; and I will also ask you, Sir, whether the alteration in the Order was not as much due to the degree in which the Government was forced at the commencement of the session by the House in the discussion of these Estimates? These are questions which I hope you will bear in mind before coming to a decision.

*MR. SPEAKER: Both the right hon. Gentlemen in putting to me points of order have introduced many questions of fact, have dealt with the merits of these questions, and have presented their arguments under the guise of arguing a question of order. Upon these matters I do not feel called upon to give an answer. So far as order and procedure are concerned, I may briefly say that it is extremely difficult in my judgment to define the precise limits of the rights of a Minister of the Crown in making alterations in the form in which Estimates have been usually presented to the House. Changes have undoubtedly been made from time to time (I have not had the opportunity of investigating them) in the form in which Votes have been presented. Votes have been consolidated and reduced in number; but what the extent of the power of a Minister in that direction is I am not prepared to say. The change in the present instance, I am bound to say, does seem of a somewhat sweeping nature. I was glad to hear the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury say that it was only resorted to as a means of meeting a great emergency which had undoubtedly arisen. As to this state of emergency and how it was brought about, that has been dealt with by the two right hon. Gentlemen, and it is not my business to say anything about it. There was undoubtedly considerable difficulty in getting through business within the proper time, and it was to meet this emergency on this special occasion only that this change was made. If there was any idea on the part of the Government, of [this or any Government, to make any permanent change of a large and important character in the method of presenting Votes in Supply, I cannot help thinking that they would themselves consider it necessary to take the House into their confidence, and to afford the House an opportunity of expressing an opinion upon it. Such a course appears so proper and natural that I feel confident that this Government or any other Government would follow it. As regards this particular instance, it has, as the right hon. Gentleman has said, been treated as a case of emergency, and an emergency there undoubtedly was, and that being so, it should not be regarded as a precedent.

*MR. JOHN ELLIS said he had a few questions to ask the Colonial Secretary in reference to one item of considerable importance which came under the sub-head "O 1, The Transvaal Concession, Land Settlement Commission, £7,800." He believed that an inquiry had been held as to the possibility of settling soldiers and others upon land in South Africa, and the questions he desired to ask were—what were the terms of reference to the Commission, who were the Commissioners, where did they hold their proceedings, did they go to South Africa, and did they hold any sittings there, did they examine witnesses there—what, in fact, they did there, and what conclusions did they arrive at? He supposed they had now returned to this country. He gathered from a reply of the right hon. Gentleman's that the Report had been submitted to Sir A. Milner for his comments, and those, no doubt, would be valuable; but inasmuch as the House was asked to vote £2,500 for the expenses of the Commission the House had a right to see the Report without delay. This question of land settlement called up many associations. In all countries and at all times the policy of dumping down persons (especially those who had recently been fighting against the late owners and occupants) upon land by the authority of a Government had led to a great deal of evil, and raised many grave misgivings. Land settlement was always a serious matter, but in South Africa at the present moment its seriousness was aggravated to a terrible degree. He had never been to South Africa, and was not sure whether that was not an advantage at the present time. But anyone who had read the history of South Africa, and had conversed with persons who had been missionaries or farmers or had occupied official positions in South Africa, as he had done ever since he had sat upon the South Africa Committee, would know that land settlement in South Africa was no new thing and had been not very successful in the past. Where the political element entered into the land settlement in South Africa there would be a state of things to which only the word "dangerous" could be applied. Had the Colonial Secretary seen a book on South Africa recently written by Mr. Dormer entitled "Vengeance as a Policy; Plea for a New Departure"? Mr. Dormer was formerly one of Mr. Cecil Rhodes's most intimate friends, but, like most respectable persons, had dropped Mr. Rhodes and all his works. In his book Mr. Dormer said—

> "The two cardinal concurrent aims of any policy worthy of practical statesmanship must be the conciliation of the Dutch and the reinforcement of the British element in the population."

What seemed to be meant by land settlement was placing soldiers and others here and there to increase a particular racial element supposed by some people to be more loyal than another racial element. It was to be hoped that the soldier settlers would be of a different character from those whom they had seen in the streets going by the ridiculous name of yeomen. Everyone who knew country life, as he did, knew that the town-bred man picked up in the slums of our great cities was no good at all as a farmer or cultivator of the soil. They must have men who understood husbandry, the habits of animals —or what he would call nature— the peasantry, and not the little undersized starvelings they had seen decked out in khaki during the last few days, a discredit to the British Army. What was the Colonial Secretary's policy? He believed that the conclusion to which Mr. Dormer came further on in his book would be a true one—

> "The most obvious means of attaining the end in view would be to make a settlement of loyal colonists on the land. If, however, it be the case—and this is the conclusion which is being slowly forced even upon those most reluctant to accept it—that suitable colonists are not likely to be forthcoming in adequate number; while it is, to say the least, doubtful whether the right sort of land in the right locality would be found,"

and so on. Where was it proposed to place these settlers in South Africa? The most likely districts had been taken up, especially in the Transvaal, by the only people who really could cultivate it in the proper sense of the term. Their environment had made the Boers what they were, and to send out English settlers from the slums to that land could only end in failure. This policy of trying to get people to try land cultivation had never been a more gigantic failure than in Rhodesia. He asked what the policy of the Government was in issuing the Commission; what had we got by it; and what were its proposals? He hoped the Colonial Secretary would be able to give some information which would allay the alarm which the proposal to send out these persons had created in certain districts. He objected to any of the money of the British taxpayer being used for so dangerous an experiment, and as a protest he begged to move the reduction of the Vote by £100.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '£893,316,' and insert '£893,216,' instead thereof."—(*Mr. John Ellis.*)

Question proposed, "That '£893,316' stand part of the Resolution."

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! I must point out that the hon. Member hes travelled somewhat beyond the limit of the Vote in entering into a discussion as to what the policy of land settlement would be. The Vote before the House was for the Commission, and upon a Vote for the Commission it is not in order to discuss the future land settlement in South Africa.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) asked whether it would not be in order to discuss the policy of appointing the Commission at all.

*MR. JOHN ELLIS remarked that he had only said what he did to draw some explanation of policy from the Colonial Secretary.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, E.): I am glad to learn from you, Sir, that I am not expected, and, indeed, it would not be in order for me, to follow the hon. Gentleman in the somewhat discursive remarks with which he has introduced this Amendment. Therefore I suppose I need not do more than refer to his extraordinary statement to the effect that the men who, as Imperial Yeomanry, are going out to fight the battles of their country in South Africa, are little, undersized starvelings and a disgrace to the British Army.

*Mr. JOHN ELLIS: I said those whom we have seen in certain plaaes in London during the last few days.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: During the last few days! I should have thought, I think still, there is no other Member of the House who would repeat this statement, or who has been so unfortunate as the hon. Member in seeing the specimens of the new force whom he has seen. But, coming to the practical question, the hon. Gentleman asks what was the reference to this Commission. It was instructed to inquire into the possibility of a settlement for soldiers in South Africa, and subsequently the reference was extended to other employments besides the settlement on the land. The hon. Gentleman asks what was the composition of the Commission. It was composed of my hon. friend the Secretary to the Admiralty, as chairman, and Mr. Southey, who, I believe, is a large and highly respected farmer at Middelburg, as second member. It was originally intended that General Plumer should be added to the Commission, but, owing to his being actively engaged in the war, he was unable to take his share in the inquiry, which was, therefore, conducted by the two gentlemen I have named. I should have thought, before I heard the speech of the hon. Gentleman, that everyone was agreed on the point of principle that it was desirable, if possible, to settle those who desired to settle in South Africa on the land, and, in the words of the book from which the hon. Gentleman has quoted, to "reinforce the British element" by that means. But as to the possibility of doing so the Government felt themselves to be very much in doubt. It was therefore necessary to make inquiry into the points which the hon. Gentleman himself has suggested as subjects for inquiry—namely, as to who would be the right men to be so settled, and as to whether any considerable number of soldiers, and not merely English, Scotch, or Irish soldiers, but those who have come from the colonies to assist us, should be settled. They also had to inquire whether there was land in existence which could be used for this purpose; whether it was the right sort of land or could be made the right sort of land by irrigation or other forms of improvement; what would be the cost of any scheme of settlement—in fact, a practical scheme was what we hoped the Commission would settle. Now the hon. Gentleman comes to this House and puts forward a statement which is entirely novel—that when the Government appoints a small Commission to inform it on an important question it is necessarily bound, immediately on the receipt of the Report, to present it to the House. There is no such rule or practice. Again and again it happens that a Commission is appointed to make inquiry, that a Report is produced for the information of the Government, and is not laid on the Table of the House or ever produced; and, in fact, it is a matter entirely in the discretion of the Government whether it should or should not be produced. In regard to the present matter, we have got a Report, which we think is a very informing Report, and for which we feel greatly indebted to my hon. friend the Secretary to the Admiralty and his colleague, who have taken an immense amount of pains and labour to produce it. They took a great deal of evidence, they examined a great number of places for themselves, and have given us a great deal of information which is worthy of the most serious consideration. But, before we can form any policy of our own or make any communication to the House on the subject, we consider it necessary that we should consult Sir Alfred Milner. Considering the confidence which we, at any rate, feel in Sir Alfred Milner, and considering the position which he occupies as Governor of the territories which, I think, are concerned, it seems to me perfectly absurd to take any other course. We have sent out a copy of the Report to Sir Alfred

Milner, and I have said, in answer to questions of the hon. Gentleman and others, that as soon as we get his observations upon the Report we will consider whether it should be laid upon the Table of the House. If it would relieve the mind of the hon. Member, I would say that, as far as I can see at present, there can be no possible objection to the production of this Report. I do not think it would be wise to produce it at this particular moment, not only because we have not the advantage of any observations which Sir Alfred Milner may desire to make, but also because I do not think it would be prudent at this moment, before we have formed any idea ourselves as to what policy we ought to adopt, to indicate certain places in South Africa which are not at present in our possession as being places which are most suitable for a scheme of this kind.

MR. JOHN ELLIS: Does the Report recommend the further expenditure of money?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The hon. Gentleman is very inquisitive. He is endeavouring indirectly to get from me information which I have declined directly to give, and, with all respect to him, I cannot go further than I have gone. As soon as we get this Report back from Sir Alfred Milner we will consider—with every expectation of being able to satisfy the curiosity of the hon. Gentleman—whether we can lay it on the Table of the House. We cannot go beyond that at the present time for the reasons I have given, and I think every reasonable man will consider them to be sufficient reasons.

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: This is a very startling innovation of the Government. The right hon. Gentleman says he will take into consideration whether he will ever let us see this Report.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Hear, hear.

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: My repartee to that is that we will take it into consideration whether we will pay for it. The practice of not laying Reports before the House seems to me to be a very strange one. You have got an Interim Report from a Boiler Committee which discredits the efficacy of the whole British Navy, but you lay that upon the Table immediately, without waiting to decide whether you are going to remove the boilers or adopt a different make. The usual custom is to lay a Report upon the Table, and to say, "With regard to the Report before you, we have not had time to determine our policy." The Report is laid, and the Government take whatever time they like to consider the policy they will found upon it. The right hon. Gentleman has spoken, and justly, of the competency of the Commissioners appointed. The hon. Member opposite has shown his capacity in dealing with the Navy Estimates, and I understand he was the principal member of that Commission. Why is it, then, the Government will not lay the conclusions of this Commission upon the Table of the House? I hope I am not too suspicious, but I venture to think that it is because the Report does not suit them or carry out the view of the right hon. Gentleman with regard to the strong reinforcement of British influence there.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I suppose the right hon. Gentleman did not hear me. That was a quotation which was used by the hon. Gentleman opposite. They were not my words, although I am quite ready to adopt them.

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: That is quite enough for my purpose. We have heard much of this. It is a gigantic plan of creating British faggot-votes in South Africa. I do not know how that may be, but I am sure that at any rate the hon. Member for South Belfast will approve of an Orange settlement.

MR. WILLIAM JOHNSTON (Belfast, S.): In the Orange Colony.

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: Then the Orange Free State is to become an Orange colony in South Africa! I quite understand. But there are two sides to this question. To propound to the Dutch population, whom you desire to pacify, the notion that you are going to take land which may belong to them for the purpose of reinforcing British influence is not likely to lead to an early pacification. Therefore the sooner we know what is the intention of the Government, and what is the Report of this Commission on the subject, the better, because while the matter is left in doubt it is a source of the greatest irritation to the Boer population. Nothing can be more irritating to a people than to know that you are going to introduce among them—they do not know in what numbers—a population which is, I will not say hostile, but at any rate alien to themselves, with different interests and different objects. It is impossible to conceive anything more dangerous than that. I will not go into the general policy of the settlement to be made, assisted, as I understand, by the State. There was an experiment made within recent years with the Scotch crofters in Canada, but it was not at all satisfactory. Many of them have been entire failures, and the money has not been repaid. If you are going into a large scheme of settlement for the purpose of increasing the British possession of land, and consequently diminishing the Dutch possession of land, it seems to me that you are quite unnecessarily introducing a factor of racial irritation. To do this in the interests of one race and against the interest of another is a most unwise and dangerous policy, and one which will make the hopes of pacification, which are distant enough already, more distant still. Therefore, if, as I conjecture, the Report of this Commission is adverse to any proposal of this kind, the sooner we have it produced in order to remove this suspicion on the part of the Dutch population the better, for it would do more than anything else to reassure the Dutch people and the Boers against the fear of confiscation and expropriation for racial purposes. The Government have a Report of competent people upon this subject, and we are as entitled to know the result as they are, or as Sir Alfred Milner is. Let Sir Alfred Milner express his opinion upon the Report; let the Government express their opinion upon the Report; but for Heaven's sake let the House of Commons know what that Report is, and, above all, let the people whose interests are to be affected by it know what the Report, drawn up by men who have seen South Africa, is. We have been told that we must trust the man on the spot. Well, the correspondence recently laid upon the Table has shown that it is the man on the spot whom we do not trust. I should like to have the opinion of the Secretary of State on this Report, although he is not the man on the spot. I should like to have the opinion of the hon. Gentleman who sits beside him (the Secretary to the Admiralty), who has been to South Africa and examined this question, as to what the Report says. It is a most extraordinary thing to ask the House of Commons to pay for a Report which perhaps they will never see at all. And when the Government have got the opinion of Sir Alfred Milner, what do they propose to do with it? Will they drop their own Report? I have never seen the Report of a Commission presented with the comments of an outsider upon it. It is an extraordinary thing that the Government, after sending out a Commission of this kind, should ask Sir Alfred Milner whether the House of Commons should ever be allowed to see the Report. That is not a proper Parliamentary practice, and I shall certainly vote against it.

MR. COHEN (Islington, E.): One would imagine from the remarks of the right hon. Gentleman opposite that he already knew the contents of this Report. At any rate, he has spoken as though he did, and he has condemned the recommendations he imagines it to contain. But the right hon. Gentleman appeared to contradict himself towards the end of his speech. My right hon. friend the Colonial Secretary gave as reason for not laying the Report on the Table at the present moment, that the Government wished to consult Sir Alfred Milner. In my judgment, with all respect to the Colonial Secretary, I think the opinion of Sir Alfred Milner will be of even higher authority than that of the right hon. Gentleman himself on this subject. But the right hon. Gentleman opposite complained of the Government desiring to consult Sir Alfred Milner, and then, before he sat down, he found fault with the Government because on another occasion they did not follow a recommendation of Sir Alfred Milner. Such a line of argument seems to me to be both inconsistent and inconsequential. There are many precedents for a Government referring a matter of such importance to one so particularly competent to give advice.

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: We do not say that they should not consult Sir Alfred Milner before they determine what to do upon the Report. That is not my point. Of course they may. They may consult him as to what they should do a year hence if necessary. All I say is that they should not consult him as to whether we should see the Report.

MR. COHEN: I did not understand my right hon. friend to say he was consulting Sir Alfred Milner as to whether or not he should lay the Report on the Table. He is going to decide that when he gets Sir Alfred Milner's remarks. That is a very wise decision, and it is not at all the same thing as the right hon. Gentleman opposite made out. I think my right hon. friend is wise in withholding the Report for the present, so that concurrently with laying it on the Table, which he has announced his present intention of doing, he may be able to give the House the conclusions at which, fortified by the advice of Sir Alfred Milner, the Government have arrived.

MR. CAINE (Cornwall, Camborne): I am sorry to infer from the statement of the Colonial Secretary that there really is no intention on his part to divulge the contents of this Report.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I am not sure whether I heard the hon. Gentleman correctly. Did he say I was not going to publish the Report?

MR. CAINE: I said I inferred it.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Then the hon. Member has no right whatever to make that inference. There is every probability that it will be produced as soon as we get Sir Alfred Milner's reply.

MR. CAINE: I am glad to hear it, because it will save me the necessity of making any long speech. This is not a mere Departmental Committee, but a Commission, and it is customary when a Department appoints a Commission that the Report of that Commission should in one way or another be made public. I represent a constituency which takes a very great interest in South Africa. We have in the mining parts of Cornwall a larger number of persons interested in Cape Colony and the Transvaal than any other constituency in the United Kingdom, and this Report has been looked for with great interest. The Cornish miner is also a bit of a farmer, and many are thinking that now the country is conquered and there is a likelihood of a settled Government, and all the rest of it, they may be able to get a bit of land in the Transvaal, and by working the land during a part of the year and earning good wages in the mines during the other part, they will be able to make a very comfortable livelihood for themselves. Many of them are looking for this Report to be published, and I trust the Colonial Secretary will make some communication, for the sake not only of Cornwall, but also of the rest of the country with regard to the future of these colonies. Another reason for issuing this Report is that a very great number of those who have enlisted or are now enlisting in the various forces for South Africa have done and are doing so with the belief that when the war is over and they have completed their service some decent sort of settlement will be found for them in the country they have helped to conquer. I believe that this Report will show that there is really no prospect of land settlement for these men, and it is most important that the Report should be published so that we may know exactly what the Commission have done, what witnesses they have examined, and what are the conclusions they have drawn, and what recommendations they have made.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland): I take this opportunity of raising this question in view of the fact that the Colonial Secretary a few nights ago, in his most honeyed tones, disclaimed any intention of attempting another plantation of Ulster in South Africa. Let me call the attention of the House to the peculiar position in which it is placed with regard to this Report. In the first place I regard the issue of the Commission at all as an extremely serious blunder. I venture to say that the issue of this Commission and, above all, the terms in which it was issued, and I may say, without any disrespect to the Secretary to the Admiralty, the personality of the Chairman of the Commission, all, I think, had a very serious effect in the prolongation of the unhappy and terrible struggle in South Africa. If this House had been asked to sanction the issue of this Commission, I am perfectly sure many Members would have resisted it as something of the most dangerous and serious consequence. But the Commission was issued without consulting the House of Commons, and now, after the Commission has taken place, after it has heard evidence and made its Report, when we come to deal with the cost of the Commission, the House is not even given an opportunity of discussing the policy of the Commission, and up to the present there is no promise that we shall ever see the evidence or the Report. The House had no control over the Commission when it was appointed, and it is to have no supervision of it now it has reported. The Colonial Secretary says, "Oh, but you can vote against the money for the Commission"; in other words, the full liberty of Members of the House of Commons is preserved when they can vote in a minority against the payment of money already spent. I never heard a proposition that put the House of Commons in a position of such ridiculous and absurd futility as this proposition of the Colonial Secretary. What is the statement of the Colonial Secretary? He does not tell us what the Report is. He does not even give us a glimpse of it. He confines himself to two propositions. First, when I raised this question before, he said we might relieve our minds, as nothing like the plantation of Ulster was contemplated. So far so good. Now he says it would be imprudent for the Government to publish a Report with regard to what would be done with lands which are not yet in our possession. That is a most sinister observation. In other words, the lands which are now held and occupied by the Boers, against whom this country is fighting, are to be part of the spoil which the Government contemplate handing over to the British troops after the war. The Colonial Secretary says it would be imprudent to publish this Report of the Commission stating what was to be done with the territory not now in our possession.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I shall be most happy to give a full explanation on that point. The idea that we contemplated taking land which is not ours, except by purchase in the ordinary way, is a suspicion which has only entered into the minds of hon. Gentlemen opposite. We have no intention whatever of expropriating owners or of confiscating their property, or of obtaining property for this purpose in any way other than as we should obtain it supposing the thing were to occur in this country.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: I think this debate has been justified by that admission at any rate. The debate is fully justified if it elicited only that statement from the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: It never entered into my mind until I heard the hon. Gentleman suggest it, that anybody would suspect such a thing.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: I put this to the House. A Commission is appointed, with the hon. Member for West Belfast—a gentleman who, with all his ability, is not known for particular sweetness and gentleness and amiability to his political opponents—a Commission is appointed, under the chairmanship of this gentleman, this violent Imperialist, for the settlement of the soldiers in South Africa after the war. I say the only possible interpretation that the world—and especially the Boers, who are not very trustful, and who have no reason to have great confidence in the permanency of their position, from which they have been driven three times in succession by British forces—could put upon such a Commission is that the English soldiers were to be settled upon the land taken from defeated or conquered Boers. I express my gratitude to the hon. Member who initiated the debate, which has brought from the Colonial Secretary for the first time——

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: No.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: For the first time——

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: No. The hon. Gentleman said something about the Ulster plantation the other night, and I told him then that he might rest assured that nothing of the kind was contemplated in South Africa.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: The point to which we have got is this: Is the Report going to be published or not? The right hon. Gentleman set up a Commission without consulting the House of Commons. He now comes to the House and demands the money to pay for the Commission, and at the same time refuses to give the slightest value for the money—namely, the evidence and the Report. The question is, Ought this Report to be published or not? I hold that every day the publication of the Report of the Commission is delayed is a day of prolongation of the war in South Africa. We do not know what the Secretary to the Admiralty reported. The golden chain of silence is flung upon him by the Colonial Secretary. He is not usually so diffident in the expression of his views, but to-night and on the last occasion the question was under discussion the Colonial Secretary did not allow the hon. Gentleman to break that golden silence in which on rare occasions in his Parliamentary career he has taken refuge. Let us know if it is true that the Secretary to the Admiralty reported that South Africa was no place for those men; that all the talk about splendid positions and opportunities was but mere imagination; and that, as matter of fact, there is in South Africa nothing but the mining camp for the miner and the veldt for the Boer. That would have a great effect in this country, as well as in South Africa, and would do a great deal to bring the war to an end. What was the fact in recruiting for the Yeomanry? Many of them are going out not merely for the purpose of fighting your battles, but with the intention and belief of finding a new career when the war was at an end. Is it not cruel, if in the pocket of the Colonial Secretary there is a Report against the possibility of all this, that young fellows should be allowed to go out buoyed up with hopes and fallacies of this kind? On the other hand, is it not cruel to the Boers, if this Report clearly shows that the Government do not intend to confiscate the lands, to allow them to go on fighting in the belief that it is their lands they are fighting for? I think we have proved conclusively that this motion has been justified, and that the House should press again and again until they get the early publication of this most interesting and vitally important Report.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I venture to point out to the House that this is not a very profitable way of spending the evening when there are questions of real substance and importance to be raised, and I suggest that we might now proceed to a division. [Nationalist cries of "Oh!"]

MR. DILLON: We were not allowed to say a word on this in Committee, we were closured.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Gentleman may not share my view, but surely I may express the view that this is not a question of such substance as should deserve to occupy much more time, when there are other questions demanding consideration? My reasons for that belief are very shortly stated. The indignation of the hon. Gentleman who has just sat down is founded upon two beliefs—first, that the Report of this Commission is adverse to the policy of the Government, and that therefore the Government are endeavouring to conceal it, and, secondly, that it is part of the scheme of the Government to forcibly expropriate the Boer population, and to substitute in their place soldiers or other emigrants from this country. Both those beliefs are entire misconceptions. My right hon. friend refuses to say whether he will or will not publish this Report. There is nothing contrary to precedent in that. There are endless Reports of Commissions which have never seen the light. I do not think it probable that this Report will be added to them. But it is not fair to find fault with my right hon. friend the Colonial Secretary for refusing to give any answer other than that which he has given—namely, that he will not in the present state of affairs make that Report public. We pledge ourselves, however, that the beliefs which have aroused the indignation of hon. Gentlemen opposite have absolutely no foundation at all. If they had a foundation, no doubt they would justify some of the anger which has been poured upon our heads, and no doubt they would provoke a great deal of fear in South Africa. But I am sorry that even the suspicion of them has found expression in the House. Owing to the strangely exaggerated and truncated versions of our debates which reach South Africa, the suspicicn of hon. Gentlemen opposite may reach Boer ears as if they represented the real facts of the case. They do not represent the truth of the matter. If, then, hon, Gentlemen opposite are to continue this debate, at all events let them not do so under the erroneous impression that any such act of suicidal policy as the compulsory confiscation of Boer lands in South Africa is contemplated by this Government.

MR. ASQUITH (Fifeshire, E.): The right hon. Gentleman told us, or we gathered from him, that he rose with a double object—first, to put an end to what he considers an unprofitable discussion, and, secondly, to remove what he described as groundless suspicions. I cannot understand how, if those were the purposes he had in view, the right hon. Gentleman did not perceive that there was one simple and efficient way of securing his end—namely, by answering the appeal which has been made by producing this Report. If we obtained from the Government a promise that the Report would be produced within a reasonable time and laid upon the Table of the House, so that Parliament, which is now voting the money for the Commission, could, before the close of the session, have some opportunity of considering whether this was a legitimate and justifiable expenditure, I think we should be very well satisfied. But the matter really does not end with the rights and usages of the House of Commons in relation to the expenditure of money. It has been pointed out over and over again that there are two sets of people whose minds are agitated so long as the contents of this Report are not disclosed. On the one hand, you have the Boer farmer in South Africa, who may be, as the right hon. Gentleman has told us, under a complete misconception. The Boer farmer, rightly or wrongly, is in a state of apprehension as to whether or not his land is going to be taken from him. On the other hand, you have the soldiers who are being recruited day by day and sent out to South Africa from this country, many of whom go out in the belief that they will there find homes and means of livelihood. Surely, as long as you have that state of apprehension, suspicion, hope, and expectation, you have a condition of unsettlement which it is most undesirable to perpetuate, and to which the production of this Report would at once put an end. I confess I have never heard a stronger case made out for the presentation of a document which is in all its essential characteristics a public document, and I earnestly hope the Government will put an end to this debate, as they can do if they please, by promising to produce this Report.

*MR. LAMBTON (Durham, S.E.): I think there is a very obvious reason why this Report should not be produced to the House. I am not in the secrets of the Commission, and I do not know the contents of the Report, but if there is any recommendation as to the acquisition of tracts of land in South Africa it is most undesirable that the Report should be laid upon the Table of the House at the present moment. We have heard a great deal from the other side of the House about the influence of the millionaires and the land speculators in South Africa. The Colonial Secretary is perfectly right in refusing to produce the Report now, because if any other course were taken it would very likely strengthen the hands of those land speculators, and enable them to gain possession of the land before the Government have the opportunity of so doing, and thus raise the price this country will have to pay. The right hon. Member for West Monmouth talks a great deal about Boer susceptibilities, but he never appears to think of English susceptibilities. There are many English and loyal colonists in South Africa whose susceptibilities ought to be regarded just as much as those of the Boers and the Dutch. Sixty years ago in the settlement of Canada there were the same racial susceptibilities as now exist in South Africa, but the men who were the Liberal statesmen of those days, and who then settled Canada, did not entirely give in to the French susceptibilities. Their plan was to settle Englishmen upon the land, to produce English interests, and to regard English susceptibilities in Canada. I therefore think that the Members of the Opposition who speak only of the Boer susceptibilities are not carrying out the true traditions of the old Liberal party.

MR. BROADHURST (Leicester): I do not think the hon. Member who has just spoken has built up a very strong case for the Government withholding this Report. Our case is that this is a public Commission, paid for out of public money, and that this House, which has to vote the money, has the first title to see the Report in all its purity, before it is doctored in South Africa With regard to the Yeomanry, it is pretty well known that the greater part are not yeomen at all. Most of them know nothing whatever of farming. You might as well put a farmer into a druggist's shop as to put many of these so-called yeomen on farms in South Africa or elsewhere. It is admitted that many of them had never touched a horse in their lives, and they probably would scarcely know a cow from a bullock. Moreover, as the right hon. Gentleman knows, the difficulty is to get them to remain in South Africa; they are wanting to come home. It is the same also with the time-expired soldiers.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is getting away from the question of this Commission.

MR. BROADHURST: I was led into that digression by the fact that this Commission was appointed to consider what inducements, if any, could be held out to Englishmen to remain in South Africa as residents. With regard to the right hon. Gentleman's statement that there is no intention of taking the land from the Boers and giving it tó a foreign people, all of us here would accept the right hon. Gentleman's word of honour. But what reliance can we expect the Boers to place upon his statement? The Boers remember the Prime Minister's declaration that we desired neither territory nor gold-fields, a declaration which was followed by the annexation of the two Republics. Therefore, if they doubt and disbelieve the right hon. Gentleman's word we cannot be much surprised. We have a right to the production of this Report immediately on or before payment for it. My object in rising was to appeal to the Secretary to the Admiralty, the Chairman of the Commission, to give the House some further information on the matter. It is most unusual for him to be muzzled by anyone, and if, with his great power of lucidity and condensation, he would give us a ten minutes *résumé* of the leading features of the Report, we should listen with great interest, and probably reward the Government by an early decision on this Vote. Neither the Colonial Secretary nor the Leader of the House has given any precedents for this procedure, so that I presume there are none. I remember the appointment of a great many Commissions in my time, but never have I known one the Report of which was sent round the world for the observations of people in no way connected with it before being presented to Parliament. I ask the hon. Gentleman the Secretary to the Admiralty to return to the ways of his early youth, and give the House some information. It was not always that we were so anxious to hear him, but to-night we are dying for him to speak. It is a great opportunity for the hon. Gentleman to distinguish himself, and I sincerely trust he will not miss it.

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present. House counted, and forty Members being found present—

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton) said he could not understand the Government appointing this Commission, because it did not seem to him that a large part of the Orange River Colony or the Transvaal were yet fit to go into. Certainly if a gentleman in the position of the Secretary to the Admiralty had gone into the portions of the Transvaal where soldiers might be settled, he would not have returned to tell the tale. Of what value then could be the Report of such a Commission? An hon. Gentleman had said that the Government had taken a wise step in suppressing the Report, because if they had done so millionaires and land speculators would have taken advantage of it and would have bought up the land. For his part he did not think there were many millionaires, who were not loved by the Boers, who would buy land there. He did not gather from the speech of the right hon. Gentleman what reason he had for entertaining the proposals of this Commission. This Commission differed from ordinary Commissions, inasmuch as it did not consist of experts. The only expert was a farmer who came from Middleburg, and who might be a great authority on the method of settling people on the land; but could anyone say that the Secretary to the Admiralty had a large amount of agricultural experience? Was Sir Alfred Milner consulted on the point as to whether that hon. Gentleman should be sent out on the Commission? If so, he surely might have been able to see the Report of the Commission before it was sent home to the right hon. Gentleman. But if Sir A. Milner did not see the Report before, why should it be sent out to him before being placed on the Table of the House? Why should Sir A. Milner be placed before the House of Commons? The Report would not alter by a single iota the policy which Sir A. Milner would adopt. He could hardly believe that Sir A. Milner had been consulted as to the selection of the Commissioners for so important a purpose as that stated. The Secretary of State for the Colonies said that this was a very informing Commission, and that the Report was informing. But what could the Secretary to the Admiralty know of agriculture or irrigation in South Africa? He would rather take his opinion on Army and Navy matters. All sorts of conditions had to be considered in South Africa—climatic conditions, and so forth—and a very strong Commission should have been appointed. Why was it necessary to appoint a Commission at all? Why could not Sir Alfred Milner have interviewed farmers in South Africa and obtained advice upon this question for the Government? Such a course would have obviated the necessity of sending out the hon. Gentleman the Secretary to the Admiralty at all. But the Commission having been appointed, and having reported, he could not understand why the Report was not laid on the Table. If the Report was one which would help the Government to settle soldiers and others in South Africa he failed to see why it was not published. For his part he believed this policy of settlement on the land would not be a success, and it was probably owing to the hon. Gentleman the Secretary to the Navy also being of that opinion that the Report was not presented to the House. The scheme of the Colonial Secretary did not commend itself to the colonies, who looked with distrust upon any scheme of settling the colonial forces in South Africa. The colonies wanted to retain their men in their own colonies. The opinion of the Boers upon the appointment of this Commission and the settlement of their lands was also a matter worthy of consideration. He thought that the country had a right to know, as they had to pay, what it was they were paying for, and that the Report of the Commission ought to be presented to the House. That being so he supported the Amendment of the hon. Member for Rushcliffe Division.

MR. DILLON: When the Secretary of State for the Colonies interrupted the hon. Member for the Scotland Division of Liverpool, he said the Government had no idea of expropriating property or acquiring land in the two Colonies, as you call them, but which we call the two Republics, except in the ordinary way of purchase; and my hon. friend the Member for Scotland Division seemed to be to some extent satisfied, or, at least, to have his fears allayed, by the statement. I confess, Sir, that that statement had no such effect on my mind, because, in my opinion, the purpose and method by which land is to be got, or by which the Government expect to get land in the Transvaal and Orange Free State, is not by expropriation or confiscation after the pattern of the Ulster settlement in Ireland, when the inhabitants were swept out of the country, treated like wild beasts, and deprived of their lands. The Government know they have no need of having recourse to that system, and, for my part, I confess that the interruption of the Secretary of State for the Colonies had for me a most sinister and significant meaning when taken in connection with the recently published Papers giving particulars of the negotiations between Louis Botha and Lord Kitchener. When we hear the Secretary of State for the Colonies declaring that the Government has no intention of confiscating the lands of the Boer farmers, but intends to acquire them by the ordinary machinery of purchase, we are reminded in the most unpleasant way of what the Secretary of State for the Colonies did when, in his telegram to Sir Alfred Milner, he substituted the word "loans." What, I ask, was the object of offering these men, ruined by your policy, burned out of houses and homes, and their property carried away—what was the object, I say again, of offering them loans?

*Mr. SPEAKER. Order, order! The hon. Member is now criticising correspondence which has no bearing on the question.

Mr. DILLON: I am only criticising it in so far as it bears on the observations of the Secretary of State for the Colonies when he said it was not proposed to acquire the land of the Boers except by methods of purchase. I say that is not what he has provided for in dictating to Lord Kitchener the terms and the machinery by which he will have these unfortunate Boer farmers at his mercy.

*Mr. SPEAKER: These references to the correspondence in question do not bear on the observation made by the right hon. Gentleman, that if the lands were taken for the purpose of settling others on them, those lands would be bought in the ordinary way by purchase or compensation. The two things are quite dissimilar.

Mr. DILLON: I shall not press that point further in view of your ruling, Sir, but I may remark that it seems to me that this question of loans gives the Secretary of State for the Colonies the opportunity of acquiring the lands, and I think it is most natural that this rather extraordinary correction of Lord Kitchener's offer should have arisen in my mind when I heard the right hon. Gentleman making the interruption to which I have alluded. The point which I chiefly desire to emphasise is the impolicy of appointing such a Commission at all. I think that is a point that has not been sufficiently dwelt upon, and I say further that the full effects of the appointment of that Commission are aggravated by the withholding of the Report. If we had that Report we would know whether it was in favour of or against these settlements. If it is against the settlements it would have a considerable effect in allaying the suspicions of the Boers and in promoting peace. If, however, as I strongly suspect, this Report is in favour of these settlements, then I think the House of Commons should have an immediate opportunity of discussing it and the policy it embodies. I hold, further, that the appointment of this Commission while the war was still in progress was a monstrous and most iniquitous blunder. It was a policy calculated, if not intended, to prolong the war. It appears to me that that is so clear that it requires no argument to support the contention. In this case you have to deal with a people whose history is very singular and peculiar. This is not the first time their lands have been taken away. This is not the first time they have been driven into the wilderness, driven too by the very Government with which they now have to deal. And when they hear of a Commission sent out to investigate whether it is possible to plant English soldiers in their country—a Commission presided over by a prominent representative of an Ulster Protestant constituency—I say even if these people were much less suspicious the natural conclusion in their minds would be that the policy about to be put in force was a policy of confiscation, a policy like that which was practised in Ireland with such disastrous results for the people of Ireland.

It may be thought by those who have not studied the question as carefully as I have that this is an exaggerated view to take, but let me remind the House of one circumstance, which is of dramatic and picturesque interest in this matter, and which gives colour, consistency, and confirmation to the views I have expressed. This is the circumstance to which I refer. Commandant Louis Botha is probably the one man of all others amongst the Boers who is most inclined to make peace on honourable lines, and put an end to this disastrous war. Mrs. Botha, who is acting as the emissary of your generals in South Africa, and carrying on the peace negotiations, is a grand-niece of the Irish rebel, Robert Emmet, and do you suppose that Commandant Louis Botha, her husband, and the other Boer leaders are not, through her, familiar with every detail of the history of Ireland, and of the ruin of our country by the very methods you are proposing to put in force in the Transvaal and Orange Free State? They know what you did for Ireland—the tyranny you introduced, the confiscation you practised. In this respect I may say these men have lived, as it were, in an Irish atmosphere; and when you send out to represent you on this Commission the Member for an Ulster constituency, what conclusion can they come to but that you are going to treat them as you treated Ireland? What can you expect these men to think if you are going to inflict upon the Transvaal and the Orange Free State a system which has plunged Ireland for hundreds of years into religious and political animosities? No matter what this Report contains, I impugn the policy of the appointment of this Commission, and I say deliberately, that in my opinion the appointment of this Commission, and its secret Report, is in a considerable measure responsible for the prolongation of the war. One of the conditions put forward by Louis Botha in his interview with Lord Kitchener was that there should be three millions of money put into the work of restoring the destruction you have perpetrated in the Transvaal and Orange Free State. The object of that was, of course, to enable the people to hold their homes. Lord Kitchener agreed to that, but the right hon. Gentleman, who has this Report in his pocket, would not agree to it. Is it not absurd to suppose that Botha, when he reads these proceedings, can come to any other conclusion than that the reason why Lord Kitchener was overruled was because this Commission, presided over by the Member for West Belfast, would have to be set aside if Lord Kitchener got his way in the negotiations with Botha? I say this action of appointing this Commission was a policy calculated to have the effect of prolonging the war. The Secretary for the Colonies took a very wobbling position upon this Report. "First he would and then he would not." He declared there was no obligation whatever for the Government to publish this Report. Then, when pressed, he said it would not be published until he had Sir Alfred Milner's opinion—I wish he had more respect for that opinion—upon the terms of peace. But what in the name of commonsense has Sir Alfred Milner's opinion upon this Report to do with its publication? I say it is an outrage to think that the House of Commons is to be denied this most important Report, bearing upon the policy of this Empire and upon the war, until Sir A. Milner gives his opinion.

The First Lord of the Treasury stated that the only thing that made him uneasy was the account of this debate that might be sent out to South Africa. Well, Sir, there will be a great deal of suspicion, and the account of these transactions will confirm the suspicion in the minds of Botha, De Wet, and the Boer farmers that there is some monstrous effort being made to rob them of their land. But the Boer leaders do not look to the speeches of Ministers *qua* Ministers. They look to the men who have directed the policy of England ever since the Jameson Raid, not to the speeches of a Colonial Secretary who three years ago declared that it would be not only unwise, but immoral, to put pressure on the President of the Transvaal, but who, although he had made that declaration, within two years engaged all the forces of the Empire in crushing the forces of that State. So the Boer farmers and their leaders naturally look to the men who in the past have shown that they could make their policy prevail, and when they see in the press in South Africa, and the press here controlled by Rhodes and Company, over and over again telegrams announcing that when this war is over three-fourths of the farmers of the Transvaal will be ruined men, and will be forced to part with their farms at any price offered by the Government, and that then these farms should be given to British soldiers — then, Sir, I think I am justified in saying that suspicion on their part is not unnatural; I must repeat these words—that three-fourths of the farmers will be ruined men, and must part with their farms for any price that is offered by the Government. That is the policy that has been adopted by the party opposite. That is the policy avowed by the Rhodesian press in this country and South Africa. That is the policy that has made these men desperate, and I say deliberately that when the Secretary of State for the Colonies refuses to confirm even the offer of Lord Kitchener, in view of the quotations which I have referred to, and in view of the cheers we have listened to, small wonder if Louis Botha and his men should say "Let us die with our arms in our hands, with as many Englishmen around us as we can kill, rather than be outcasts and beggars in the land." [A laugh.] I accept that laugh as good testimony of the spirit in which some hon. Members deal with this subject. I have said outcasts in the land. I repeat, is it any wonder that a soldier and gentleman like Louis Botha would prefer to die with arms in his hands and as many Englishmen lying round him as he could kill, rather than be a beggar in the land which his fathers won from the wilderness, and which they themselves love and are defending with a gallantry which the whole annals of the human race can hardly surpass.

Mr. GEORGE WHITELEY (Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey) said that in the speech delivered by the right hon. Gentleman there were matters of great weight and gravity to be debated and discussed. The object of the right hon. Gentleman was apparently to dissipate what he believed to be the erroneous views which were held by the hon. Members opposed to him in this policy. If he desired to dissipate any views which he believed to be wrong there was one method of doing so—by producing the Report of the Commission which the House was so desirous to have. If he was not prepared to produce the actual Report, the right hon. Gentleman might at least have informed the House of the gist of it. He might have submitted a synopsis of it, so that the minds of hon. Members might be satisfied. No blame had been attached to the Government for their action in transmitting the Report to Sir Alfred Milner before proceeding to act on it, but they did blame the Government for refusing to take the House into their confidence about the matter at a time when the Report was being bandied about between London and South Africa. The House was in a very difficult position, as was the Government, with regard to this matter. The Government sent out a Commission well qualified to deal with such questions as might crop up, the president of which was so much in the confidence of the Government that he was elevated to an important post in the Government in his absence from this country. The hon. Gentleman made a Report to the Government which was no doubt a very able one, but before the Government presented it to the House it had to be sent out to Sir Alfred Milner in order that he might dot the "i's" and cross the "t's" of the Report of the hon. Gentleman. The Government had placed the House in a very undignified position, and put a stigma upon the efforts of the hon. Gentleman. What incentive would the hon. Member in the future possess to undertake such labours if after all his trouble his Report might never see the daylight in the first place, and be held back from the House, or might be presented in a mutilated form. The debate upon this question had, in his opinion, been justified. The House had not obtained an inkling as to the suggestions which the Report contained, except that it contained some scheme of purchase. No one would quarrel with any scheme of purchase, but he would like to know who it was that was going to purchase. Were the men who were now promenading the streets in khaki going to purchase the land? Judging from their style he did not think they had the funds to do so, and if they were not to purchase the land who was? Was the unfortunate British capitalist going to purchase the land? These were matters upon which the country had a right to be informed. One hon. Member had alluded to the physique, stamina and hardness of the *pseudo*-Yeomanry now being sent out to South Africa. At a time when we were trying to attract men to the Army to do this work in South Africa, it was advisable to present an attractive scheme, so that the farm labourers of this country—the *bona fide* yeomen—would be attracted. If the Government were prepared to produce a scheme they should boldly say what their proposals were, and if they had done so, and showed that they were desirous of meeting in some form the desires of the House of Commons, they would have staved off the debate which was taking place, and have been able to deal with more important matters.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) pointed out that the Government were alone responsible for the present debate and its prolongation, because on the last occasion when information was asked on the point the Colonial Secretary, who refused to say whether there was a Report prepared at all, within a few minutes of the question being raised moved the closure. Here was a Commission of great importance, which had cost nominally £2,500, but the actual cost of which would be something like £20,000,000, which according to the right hon. Gentleman had prepared a Report containing valuable information with regard to the settlement of soldiers in South Africa. Yet this document was withheld from the very body which represented the people of England, and which had eventually to find the money to carry out the recommendations of the Report. It was part of the policy of treating the House of Commons with disdain. We had a new constitutional theory now. Sir Alfred Milner was the latest importation into our constitutional theory. Last week it was the House of Lords which was first in receiving information, and the House of Commons nowhere. This week it was Sir Alfred Milner and the right hon. Gentleman who were first in regard to this important information, and the House of Commons nowhere. Step by step the House of Commons was being gradually lowered in the constitutional and political scale. Soon the people's chamber would be wiped out altogether, and the Government would be carrying out a policy of nominating an executive council to carry out the dictates of the Colonial Secretary, or rather of the Cabinet. He called the attention of the House to the state of the Front Ministerial Bench. There were two occupants of it who knew what the Report contained—the Colonial Secretary and the Secretary to the Admiralty. The former was absent, and the latter had gone as far towards the boundary which divided the House from its precincts as he possibly could. He was muzzled—he was not allowed to say a word, he was only allowed to laugh. The laughter and jeers which they had heard during the previous speech from the Ministerial Benches were very significant. He was not at all sure whether the whole meaning of the Report could not be evolved from those sneers. The House was not to be told what the Report contained. This was the first time the Report of a Commission of this importance had been withheld from the knowledge of the House. [At this point Mr. Balfour took his seat.] At last the House was getting a responsible Minister to take part in the proceedings. He feared, however, it was not the First Lord of the Treasury's interest in the subject which had drawn him to the House—it was much more likely to be an intention to terminate the discussion. An indication of the real value of the Report was given by the Colonial Secretary when he explained that the Commission inquired about places for the settlement of English soldiers which were not in our possession. Where were these places? In the possession of the Boers—in parts of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony that we had not yet ever penetrated? He had heard about cooking a hare before it was caught, but the Colonial Secretary was cooking the hare before it had even been seen! It was no wonder that the Colonial Secretary showed small keenness to issue the Report. The real reason was that the right hon. Gentleman must be beginning to doubt the wisdom of his policy in appointing the Commission. His reluctance to publish the Report was its condemnation. A more unwise, a more unfortunate, a more reckless act than the appointment of this Commission had never been perpetrated in South Africa even by the Colonial Secretary. The right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury was very solemn in his appeals to the Opposition not to say anything which might reach the ears of the Boers. The appeal should have been addressed to the colleague who sat next to him—the Colonial Secretary. It was not the speeches of individual Members of the House that did the mischief and the evil—it was the acts of the Government. Which had the greatest weight among the Boers, the speech of a humble Member below the gangway, or an act under the Seal of the Colonial Office, which appointed a Commission to inquire whether the Government could settle soldiers upon the farms of the Boers in South Africa? The Boers had heard of the Commission, because it was appointed, as was everything that was done by the Colonial Secretary, with a flourish of trumpets. It was one of the right hon. Gentleman's impulses to do a cheap and popular thing, which had from time to time created so much mischief. It had been suggested by the papers supporting the Colonial Secretary that the farms ought to be divided amongst the yeomen. In one journal an article was headed, "The Spoils for the Victors"—it was a recommendation from beginning to end in favour of confiscating the property of "these rebels." If the Government wished to encourage the Boers and provoke them to prolong the war to the utmost they could do so in no better way than by such foolish, such indiscreet acts as the appointment of this Settlement Commission. The mere statement of the Colonial Secretary that we should buy out the Boers was no answer to their anxiety for the safety of their homesteads. The right hon. Gentleman had denuded their country, depleted their farms, burnt their homes, and now proposed to buy them out! What was there that would in the slightest degree make these people believe that our intention was not to turn them out? The result of the Colonial Secretary's refusal to publish the Report would be that the suspicious nature of the Boers, of which so much had been heard, would be stirred to its depths, and that the war would be prolonged for a longer and more indefinite period. The right hon. Gentleman ought not only to publish the Report but also to state whether he was going to act upon it.

MR. CAWLEY (Lancashire, Prestwich) stated that, having travelled through the Transvaal, he was able to form a fair idea as to the nature of the country, and in his opinion—

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member would not be in order in discussing the probability of success or failure of a scheme of settlement in the Transvaal.

MR. CAWLEY desired merely to impress upon the right hon. Gentleman the importance of telling the British public the truth about the country. If this Report were published, it would doubtless save a great number of the yeomen and others who were going out to South Africa from dire disappointment. Before the war commenced a certain portion of the British press incited the people of this country to war by making out that the Transvaal was a sort of El Dorado for farmers. It was a peculiar thing that the people who knew least about farming always thought that they knew most, and the greater number of the yeomen, who had no real knowledge of farming——

*MR. SPEAKER intimated that the hon. Member was again entering into the policy of such a scheme of settlement.

MR. CAWLEY said he would merely ask the right hon. Gentleman to reconsider his decision, and give an epitome of the Report, so that the British public might not go out to South Africa, only to meet with disappointment.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided:—Ayes, 193; Noes, 118. (Division List No. 98.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baldwin, Alfred

Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J.(Manch'r.
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W.(Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Beach,Rt.Hn.SirM.H.(Bristol)
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish,V. C. W.(Derbysh.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn.J.(Birm.
Chamberlain,J.Austen (Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett,A. Cameron(Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, IrwinEdward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies,SirHoratioD.(Chath'm
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale, Sir JosephCockfield
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A.Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Faber, George Denison
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes,Hon.Ailwyn Edward
Fielden, EdwardBrocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Foster,SirMichael(Lond.Univ.
Garfit, William
Gibbs,Hon.Vicary(St. Albans)
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst,Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon.GeorgeJoachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene,SirE W(B'rySEdm'nds
Greene, Hy. D. (Shrewsbury)
Greene,W.Raymond-(Cambs.)
Gretton, John
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hain, Edward
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hamilton,RtHnLordG(Mdd'x
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashf'rd
Harris,F.Leverton(Tynem'th)
Heath,James(Staffords.,N.W.
Hoare, E. B. (Hampstead)
Hope,J F(Sheffield,Brightside
Howard,Capt.J.(Kent,Favers.
Howard, J. (Midd.,Tottenh'm
Hozier, Hon. James Henry C.
Hutton, John (Yorks., N. R.)
Jebb,Sir Richard Claverhouse
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kenyon-Slaney,Col. W.(Salop)
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick W.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Long, Col. Chas.W. (Evesham
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Bristol,S
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis(Lowestoft
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Iver,Sir L. (Edinburgh,W.)
Majendie, James A. H.
Maxwell,RtHnSirHE(Wigt'n
Maxwell,W.J.H(Dumfriessh.
Middlemore, John T.
Milward, Col. Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton,ArthurH.A.(Deptford
Mount, William Arthur
Murray,RtHnA.Graham(Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray,Col. Wyndham(Bath)
Newdigate, FrancisAlexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Curne
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Ritchie,Rt.Hn.Chas.Thomson
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Rothschild,Hn. Lionel Walter
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith,HC(North'mb.Tynes'de
Smith,JamesParker(Lanarks.
Smith, Hon.W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart,SirMarkJ.M'Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G(Oxf'dUniv
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E.
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkney
Welby,Lt.-Col.ACE(Taunton
Welby,SirCharlesG.E.(Notts.
Wharton,Rt. Hon. JohnLloyd
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-und.L.)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson,J. W.(Worcestersh.N.
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young,Commander(Berks.E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham,William(Cork,N.E.)
Ambrose, Robert
Asher, Alexander
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bell, Richard
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carvill, PatrickGeo.Hamilton
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William

Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Ellis, John Edward
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbert J.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Griffith, Ellis J.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Holland, William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Joyce, Michael
Kinloch, Sir John George Smyth
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipp'rary Mid
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Pickard, Benjamin
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Capt. Jn. (Forfarshire)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spencer, Rt Hn C. R. (Northants
Sullivan, Donal
Thomas, David Alf. (Merthyr)
Thompson, E. C. (Monaghan, N.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whiteley, George (York, W. R.
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilson, Fred W. (Norfolk Mid.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

Question put accordingly, "That '£893,316' stand part of the Resolution."

The House divided:—Ayes, 196; Noes, 121. (Division List No. 99.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H (Bristol)
Bentinck, Lord Henry C,
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J (Birm.
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, Sir Horatio D (Chatham
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale, Sir Joseph Cockfield
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Faber, George Denison
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Foster, Sir Michael (Lond. Univ.
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Sir E. W. (Bury St. Ed.
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.)
Gretton, John
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hain, Edward
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hamilton, Rt Hn. Lord G (Mid'x
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashfd.
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th)
Heath, James (Staffords, N. W.
Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampste'd
Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.
Hope, J. F. (Shef'ld, Brightside
Howard, Capt J (Kent, Faversh.
Howard, J. (Midx., Tottenham
Hozier, Hon. James Henry C.
Hutton, John (Yorks. N. R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnston, Heywood (Sussex)
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.
Keswick, William

King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Lambton,Hon.Frederick Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawson, John Grant
Lee,ArthurH.(Hants.Fareh'm
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower,FrederickN.S.
Long,Col.CharlesW.Evesham
Long,RtHn.Walter(Bristol,S.
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas,Col.Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M‘Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M‘Iver,SirLewis(EdinburghW
Majendie, James A. H.
Maxwell,RtHnSirH E(Wigt'n
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriessh.
Middlemore, Jn.Throgmorton
Milward, Colonel Victor
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, R. J. (Shropshire)
Morgan,Dav.J.(Walthamst'w
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton,ArthurH.A.(Deptford
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G.(Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray,Col.Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate,Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Charles T.
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Rothschild,Hon.LionelWalter
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith,HC(Northum.Tyneside
Smith,JamesParker(Lanarks.
Smith, Hon. W. F. D.(Strand)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart,SirMarkJ.M‘Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,RtHnJ.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warde, Lieut. Col. C. E.
Wason, JohnCathcart(Orkney
Welby,Lt-Col.A.C.E(Taunton
Welby,SirCharlesG.E.(Notts.
Wharton, Rt. Hn. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H. (Ashton u. Lyne
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson,J.W.(Worcestersh.N.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks,E.)

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William(Cork,N.E.)
Allen,CharlesP(Glouc.,Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Asher, Alexander
Asquith,RtHonHerbertHenry
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bell, Richard
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Dewar, JohnA.(Inverness-sh.)
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (DerbyCo.)
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.
Hardie,J. K. (MerthyrTydvil)
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Hobhouse,C. E. H.(Bristol,E.)
Holland, William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Jameson, Maj. J. Eustace
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Joyce, Michael
Kinloch, Sir John George S.
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M‘Arthur, Wm. (Cornwall)
M‘Dermott, Patrick
M‘Fadden, Edward
M‘Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. L. (Carmarthen)
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipper'ryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor,James(Wicklow,W.
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Pickard, Benjamin
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond,John (E.Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Reid,SirR.Threshie (Dumfries
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott,Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair,Capt. Jn. (Forfarshire
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spencer,Rt.Hn.CR(Northants
Sullivan, Donal
Thomas,DavidAlfred(Merthyr

Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, W. R.)
Whiteley, George (York, E.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. John Ellis and Mr. T. P. O'Connor.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.) referred to the item in respect to savings banks and friendly society deficiencies. The deficiency this year in respect of savings banks amounted to £39,866, and in 1903, when the interest on Consols was reduced, the deficiency might be materially increased. The Chancellor of the Exchequer would be faced with the serious question of how that deficiency in respect of both trustee and post office savings banks should be dealt with, and he hoped that the idea which would commend itself to the right hon. Gentleman would be not only an increased power of investment to the National Debt Commissioners in respect of funds entrusted to them and paid over by the savings banks, but also that the trustees and managers of the savings banks would be allowed greater powers of investment in local and other securities. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had more than once stated that legislation on this subject must take place, and last session a Bill was introduced providing for a fluctuating rate of interest to the depositors. Those connected with banks generally, not only the depositors, but also trustees and managers, felt that such a fluctuating rate of interest fixed annually would be a matter of great difficulty with regard to anticipatory calculation, and also that it would have a tendency to decrease the deposits in savings banks, which were so conducive to the thrift and providence of the country. As Chairman of the Inspection Committee of Trustee Savings Banks, he (the speaker) believed, so far as it was possible to form a judgment, that the deposits were made by those classes which it was the original intention of the Savings Banks Act to help, and that generally speaking the banks had the great provident value which had always been attached to them. Further, the State got the benefit of the services of these honorary trustees and managers, who did most admirable work on behalf of the country. His main object in rising was to make a strong appeal to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to make at least a full inquiry before he again proposed a measure for the establishment of a fluctuating rate of interest, and also to give an opportunity to those connected with the banks to express the very strong wish that existed for an enlarged field of investment. He believed that properly made investments in local securities were the very best and a perfectly safe form of investment, and he hoped before any legislation was atempted with regard to the matters he had referred to a committee would be appointed to inquire into the whole subject, and into the expediency of effecting those administrative reforms which had been recommended by the Inspection Committee in its annual reports, and embodied by himself in a Bill which he had introduced into the House of Commons.

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: I hope the right hon. Gentleman will be extremely cautious in dealing with this matter at all. When this question was before us on a previous occasion it was supposed that Consols were too high, and that they were going up to 150. The present tendency seems to be to go to 50 rather than 150. The dangers which were anticipated with reference to savings banks in consequence of what are called the terribly inflated condition of Consols has disappeared, and I do not think the danger is likely to reappear—at present, at all events. Therefore, if I might venture to offer any suggestion to the Chancellor of the Exchequer it would be to leave this matter alone.

MR. BARTLEY said that with Consols at 95 and Exchequer Bills bringing in $3\frac{11}{16}$, the House might very well wait before dealing with this subject. He seriously doubted the wisdom of largely increasing the scope of the present investments of savings banks, because directly the savings banks held large sums in other securities they practically guaranteed those securities, and the advantage of their having a larger field of investment was at once done away with. It was not necessary to go into the subject of the fluctuating rate of Consols, but he could not see why the savings bank rate should not fluctuate the same as any other bank rate, if necessary. From the present condition of the money market it was not likely that the difficulty with regard to Consols would arise for some years, and he congratulated the Chancellor of the Exchequer on not having done much at present.

MR. COHEN urged the Chancellor of the Exchequer to be very cautious as to how he interfered with the securities in which savings banks funds might be invested. The depositors had the security of the State, and when the State had given that security it should take care that the funds were invested in Government securities. He did not say that that was a rule from which under no conceivable circumstances should any departure be made, but certainly the right hon. Gentleman had been very wise in not allowing the actual price of Consols at the moment to govern his decision in the matter. The question was far too important to be determined by the fluctuation in the price of Consols, and if the present rule were departed from it would artificially appreciate the value of the other securities in which the savings banks were permitted to invest.

MR. LOUGH congratulated the hon. Members for East and North Islington on their change of mind in regard to this question, and reminded them that when the Bill to which reference had been made was introduced he stood up for the very principle they were now so well advocating. There was every reason why the rate of interest paid to depositors in savings banks should not fluctuate. The Vote before the House dealt with the state of savings banks only to the end of 1899, but perhaps the Chancellor of the Exchequer could state the position at the end of 1900, as the House would be glad to know exactly how the matter now stood.

SIR EDGAR VINCENT (Exeter) joined in the congratulations that no change was about to be made in the present conditions. He very strongly held the opinion that a fluctuating rate of interest would be a great calamity to all the investing classes of the country, and also that the reduction of the present rate of interest would be detrimental to savings banks. He therefore hoped that no change would be made in either respect so long as present conditions obtained.

MR. PLATT-HIGGINS (Salford, N.) said the Manchester trustees of savings banks felt very keenly that they were compelled to invest the money they lent in the purchase of Manchester Corporation stock. They wished most distinctly not to be obliged to purchase stock which fluctuated, but to be allowed to lend money in fixed sums to be returned in the same amounts. They did not wish to incur the risk of complications arising in the market; if they lent £100 they desired to get £100 back. The House had never had any explanation from the Chancellor of the Exchequer as to why they were subjected to the present inconvenience.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS desired to call attention to a matter which affected a large class of taxpayers in the country. The income-tax on incomes up to £700 a year was graduated——

*MR. SPEAKER: I do not see under which part of the Vote the hon. Member is proceeding.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS said that under the Inland Revenue Vote there were certain charges for law expenses, prosecutions, and collection, and his point was that under the existing administration there were very considerable difficulties in the way of people obtaining rebates of amounts due to them if their incomes were less than £700 a year. He did not in the least blame the local officers, as they simply acted upon instructions, but it ought to be made as easy as possible for people to obtain such rebates as they were entitled to.

*MR. SPEAKER: I do not see how this comes under the present Vote. The hon. Member's complaint seems rather to touch the policy of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and in that case would come on on the ordinary Estimates, on the Vote for the Chancellor of the Exchequer's salary.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS then called attention to the desirability of improving post office accommodation at the large railway stations in this country. On the Continent the accommodation for post office purposes at the stations was infinitely superior to that provided in this country.

*MR. SPEAKER intimated that in the Report of Supply for the 28th February there was a Vote for post office buildings, but not in the Report under discussion.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS then directed attention to the Vote for stationery and printing, and thought the House was entitled to have the printing of *Hansard* done more expeditiously. Members of the Canadian Parliament actually had on their breakfast tables the report of the debate of the previous evening.

*MR. SPEAKER: This Vote is for printing done for public departments and in the Stationery Office. *Hansard* is not printed in the Stationery Office; there is merely an arrangement between the Treasury and *Hansard* by which a certain number of copies are supplied.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS was about to refer to the question of slavery in British East Africa, when

*MR. SPEAKER pointed out that the only expenses asked for in the Supplementary Estimate with regard to British East Africa were in relation to a punitive expedition, and the abolition of slavery would not come under that.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS said the House was constantly being told that the object of these military expeditions in distant parts of the Empire was the suppression of slavery, and under these circumstances he thought the House had a right to say a word with regard to the cost of those operations.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member must confine his remarks to this particular expedition in Zanzibar.

Mr. Speaker.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS thought that if these military operations were undertaken, one of their main objects being to put down slavery, we should be perfectly consistent and put down slavery where we had the power to do so as early as possible. He concluded by thanking the Speaker for the courtesy with which he had pointed out the circumstances under which he was precluded from raising the questions to which he had referred, but doubtless other occasions would arise upon which he could return to those subjects.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) referred to the Printing and Stationery Vote, a portion of which was required for mourning stationery in connection with the death of the late Queen. He did not intend to quibble with the amount spent, but he certainly thought the Government might have set a better standard of taste in regard to the stationery. Its hideous black border was offensive to the eye and the taste. [Ministerial laughter.] If hon. Gentlemen opposite had no taste he could not help it.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That observation is beyond the courtesies of debate.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: In that case, Sir, I will call your attention to the fact that hon. Gentlemen sitting opposite are evidently not in a fit condition to behave themselves.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That again is a most irregular observation, and I must ask the hon. Gentleman to withdraw it.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: As probably I cannot prove it, I beg to withdraw the observation. The hon. Member expressed the hope that when in future such stationery was required some form of border would be devised which was less offensive to the taste than that now adopted. He also objected to the Vote of £20,000 which took the form of a grant to the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York in connection with their visit to the colonies. The object for which that expense had been incurred had been neither considered nor sanctioned by the House of Commons, and he asked whether it was in accordance with constitutional practice and procedure that the nation should be called upon to bear such expenses without the House of Commons having first sanctioned the expenditure. Cases of emergency might arise wherein it was necessary to incur liabilities without an opportunity presenting itself for consulting the House of Commons, but that was not the case on the present occasion. If this expenditure was not being incurred under any rule or decision of the House, by whose authority was it undertaken? The next Vote on the Paper was in connection with the funeral of the late Queen. He had no objection whatever to the amount spent on the funeral ceremony; his objection was entirely to the manner in which the money had been expended. The ceremony took the form of a military funeral, and he protested in the strongest and most emphatic manner against the Head of a constitutional State being buried with military honours, to the total exclusion of the whole civil and religious life of the community. The late Queen was the head of the Army, but she was also head of the Anglican Church as by law established, of the law courts, and of the State, and an explanation was due to the nation why the funeral was entirely a military display from which civic, religious, and communal life was altogether excluded. A part of the Vote was for stands erected along the route of the procession. He recalled with a feeling of shame that he had the honour of occupying a position on one of those stands. There were three stands erected, one for the veterans of the Army, one for cadets being trained for the Army, and the third for Members of the House of Commons. The dignified part which the representatives of the people of England were called upon to play in the funeral ceremonies of England's greatest Queen was to stand on tip-toe upon a stand some thirty yards away from the procession in order to obtain a glimpse of it as it passed along. Whoever was responsible for the making of those arrangements was guilty of an insult to the nation at large and to the House of Commons in particular. The leading characteristic of the august Lady who for so long adorned her high office was that of domestic simplicity. Nothing gaudy appealed to her; garish displays were alien to her tastes and feelings; and it did seem to him a mockery that the last ceremony in connection with the passing of such a Queen should have taken the form of a huge military display, a pageant, a show for the multitudes to gape at, from which all simplicity was absent, and in connection with which feelings of reverence were all but an impossibility. ["No."] Hon. Members might differ from him on that point; his feelings were dictated by what obtained among the simple and homely people of a Scotch village, where reverence for the dead was a marked and distinguishing feature of all these last rites and ceremonies, and the great military show, and the enormous crowd of people, assembled not to do reverence to England's dead Queen, but to see the ceremony provided for them, grated upon his feelings. What he felt then, and what he felt now, was that the dead body of England's Queen was used as a recruiting sergeant to help the military designs now being carried into effect. Apart from any feeling of that kind the fact could not be denied, and dare not be disputed, that the House of Commons, the representative of the nation, was ignored and passed over, and that the gentlemen of England were prepared to submit to the indignity without protest and without feeling the degradation it involved. If anything were required to mark the decadence of England's greatness they had it in the fact that the House of Commons, composed of English gentlemen, was prepared to see its high position taken from it, and the soldier placed where the ruler by right should stand. He asked for information in connection with these two items—first of all, by whose authority the expenditure for the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall's tour had been incurred, and secondly, who was responsible for the arrangements in connection with the funeral of the late Queen, and why it was that the funeral was turned into a military display from which the civil life of the nation was altogether eliminated?

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): The hon. Member has called attention to two items in the Supplementary Estimate. The first is that of £20,000 for the tour of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York to our colonial possessions. He has asked by whose authority the expenditure has been incurred. By my authority. I am convinced that there is perhaps no item in all the Estimates that are presented this year which would be more cheerfully voted by the House of Commons than that of the expenses of this tour, undertaken, as it is, at personal sacrifice to the Duke and Duchess and the King and Queen, in the discharge of a solemn duty, undertaken at the request of our great colonies in Australasia and Canada and in other parts of the world, and calculated, I believe, to be of immense advantage in consolidating and welding together our Empire, and in instructing its future ruler as to the greatness of his responsibilities. I do not believe that even the hon. Member himself really seriously objects to this Vote. I now come to the second point to which the hon. Member called attention—the expenses of the funeral of her late Majesty the Queen. The hon. Member has not expressed, and I am quite sure that no one would express, any objection to the amount of the Vote, but he has called attention to the manner in which the funeral appeared to him to have been conducted. He has described it as a military pageant from which the civil and religious elements were entirely absent, and he has stated that in his opinion that solemn procession through the streets of the metropolis was viewed merely as a pageant by the hundreds and thousands of spectators, and not with feelings of reverence. I do not think that would be the impression of anyone else who witnessed it. If there was a military element in the funeral it was largely necessitated by the fact that it was impossible to keep the streets without the presence of the military, and no one, so far as I am aware, has expressed any objection to this except the hon. Member himself. I am persuaded that though there was a certain amount of military ceremony in the funeral, it was not more than was right and proper in the funeral of a Sovereign of this country, that the ceremony was solemn, quiet, and reverent, and that certainly both the civil and religious elements were adequately represented. The hon. Member has found fault with the accommodation reserved for the House of Commons. I have nothing to do with arrangements of that kind. All the arrangements for the funeral were under the supreme control of the Duke of Norfolk, the Earl Marshal, who, I think, the House will remember was not long ago responsible for similar arrangements on the occasion of the public funeral of Mr. Gladstone, and who, I believe, conducted on both occasions the arrangements entrusted to him in a manner deserving praise. I do not think the hon. Member is justified in the remarks he has made, and I think it was perfectly evident that they did not meet with the sympathy of the House.

Having dealt with these two points I will say one or two words on the matter brought before the House by the hon. Member for South Islington. He referred to the item in the Vote for the expenses of the saving banks. I am glad to observe that this is a diminishing item owing to the fact that the investments have been more profitable during the past year than in the immediately preceding years. I agree with the hon. Member that it is eminently desirable that careful inquiry by the House of Commons should precede any legislation on this subject. When I introduced my Bill last year I was careful to state that such was my intention. I do not anticipate that any Bill for dealing with the interest paid to depositors in savings banks should or ought to receive assent without very careful previous inquiry by a Select Committee; and although I am sorry that the particular proposal I made was not very well received by some Members of the House, yet I am by no means wanting in the hope that when it comes to be fairly examined and discussed it may be found to be much more valuable than has been supposed. I can only say that it has been eminently successful in connection with savings banks in France. There is one point which makes the matter somewhat urgent, and that is the fact that in 1903 the rate of interest in Consols is automatically reduced by ¼ per cent., and that as the savings banks moneys are largely invested in Consols, the income from this investment will diminish by a large annual sum; and therefore after that time there may be a considerable deficiency to be voted by Parliament. Before that time comes the question must be examined by the House of Commons in order to ascertain in what way it can be dealt with.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND directed attention to the fact that the last fifteen Votes in the Supplementary Estimate were passed through Committee without a single word being said about them, owing to the new procedure adopted by the First Lord of the Treasury, and by which they were lumped together. He would ask the Secretary to the Treasury to give some information to the House upon some of the subjects in connection with which they were asked to vote money. In the Stationery and Printing Vote there was the extraordinary sum of £100,000, which the Secretary to the Treasury said had been necessitated by the war. He had often said that there was absolutely no knowing where the expenses of the war were going to end. The large sum asked to conduct military operations did not represent what would be the full cost of the war, and that was illustrated by the fact that no less a sum than £100,000 extra was asked for stationery and printing. Could the Secretary to the Treasury give any facts to justify this enormous sum? That gigantic sum appeared to be out of all proportion to any real necessity there could be. An additional sum of £15,800 was asked for the diplomatic and consular services. How did it come about that this considerable sum was asked for? He presumed that it was expense which had arisen out of military operations in China. He also asked explanations of £4,000 in connection with the state of affairs in the Portuguese Settlement, and £1,200 for telegrams in connection with the state of affairs in the Far East. It would be much better in his opinion if the Government were to cease their policy of aggravating the Chinese, and leave them alone in their own country. He was sure they would treat in a proper way the Europeans going there, but the present system of harrying and worrying the Chinese——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That question is not relevant.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said he mentioned this merely for the purpose of pointing out that the cause of the cost of which he complained was to be found in the warlike policy of His Majesty's Government. In the Vote for the Treasury Chest Fund an increase of £63,261 was asked. He ventured to say that the explanation given of that amount was not quite clear. They were asked to vote an additional sum of £4,600 for the Lord Chamberlain's Department to provide insignia of the Distinguished Service Order. No doubt that Order was highly prized by the gentlemen who earned it, and no doubt they received it in a meritorious and proper way. He believed that the vast majority of those who received the Order would feel it to be only a compliment to be allowed to pay any paltry cost there might be in connection with providing themselves with the decoration which they hung upon their breast. When there there were so many people in the direst straits in this country, when they found themselves surrounded in every part of the United Kingdom by distress, when they knew that even within a few minutes' walk of the House there were in the streets and alleys and slums of Westminster people who were probably at the moment hungering for a crust of bread, and suffering semi-starvation, it was rather frivolous that the taxpayers should be asked to pay £4,600 merely for the purpose of buying some blue, green, red, or yellow ribbon to decorate the coats of gentlemen who had been awarded the Distinguished Service Order. The next Vote had reference to the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall's visit to the Colonies. With regard to that he had nothing whatever to say. He thought if they sent them there it would be rather hard to ask them to go without their travelling expenses. The Irish felt it, no doubt, a hard thing that they should be called upon to pay a proportion of that expense, which really did not affect them much, but from the English point of view, and from the ordinary commercial business point of view, he did not blame the Government for paying the travelling expenses of their Royal Highnesses. With regard to the Vote of £35,000 for the funeral of Her late Majesty, he did not desire to say a single word. That was a matter for the country and the House of Commons, and if they thought that the money was properly expended he did not feel disposed to offer any objection. It was a hardship and a grievance that Members of the House should be called upon at that hour (11.25 p.m.) to consider fifteen Votes, upon which they were not allowed to say one word in Committee of Supply. He might say in this connection that he believed the whole House of Commons heard with the greatest satisfaction the statement which Mr. Speaker made from the Chair, in connection with the new departure of lumping the Votes of the Supplementary Estimate together, that this would not be regarded as a precedent by the Government in the future.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield) called attention to the extra expenditure in connection with the diplomatic service. The Vote showed an increase of 75 per cent. on the original Estimate, and that mainly for telegrams. That was a very large increase in one year after the Estimates had been made out. That could not be entirely owing to the prolongation of the war, for even if the war had been over there would have been large expenditure in connection with peace negotiations. An increase of 75 per cent. on diplomatic telegrams was more than could be accepted without very considerable explanation. Several hon. Members had intended to raise the question in Committee, but were precluded from doing so because the Vote was not reached. There was very considerable difficulty in discussing the matter on the Report stage, and his only course was to move a reduction at once.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member cannot now move a reduction.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER said that that was another difficulty which confronted hon. Members when discussing Estimates on the Report stage. He hoped that the Government would give the House some explanation of such a large increase. He regretted that hon. Members should be precluded from discussing such an important question in Committee.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): I will deal as briefly as I can, but I hope with sufficient fulness to satisfy hon. Members, with the various questions that have been addressed to me. If the hon. Member who has just spoken will look at the Vote he will observe that only £4,000 can in any way be said to be connected with the state of war existing in South Africa.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER: I pointed out that it was not due to the war in any way.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Then the hon. Member relieves me from the necessity of making any further explanation.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER: Then what was the cause of the increase?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The first cause is the disturbed condition of affairs in China, and secondly there is a sum of £4,000 for telegrams with reference to the state of affairs at Lorenco Marques. As the hon. Member knows, Lorenco Marques became of very considerable importance. Events of great interest took place there, and he will understand that it was necessary for the Foreign Secretary to communicate with our representative there, and not infrequently. It is not unreasonable, having regard to the circumstances of the past year, that more inquiries than were anticipated were necessary, especially when it is remembered that the Estimates had to be framed in October, November and December of the year before last. The hon. Member for East Clare asked me to give him some indication as to how the £100,000 for the Stationery Vote was made up, that sum being described in the Vote as being mainly due to the war. I ought to say that the Stationery Vote includes something more than hon. Members may suppose. It is not only notepaper and printing, but a variety of other stores also, such as packing-paper, required by the War Office for the stores they have sent out to South Africa. That has been supplied by the Stationery Office, as well as special waterproof coverings to cover articles which might be damaged by damp. Then there were thirteen million envelopes demanded by the War Office in excess of their normal supply, and

250,000 discharge certificates were also required in excess of the usual supply. Then there were special account books for the use of officers and men, which were prepared with counterfoils, so that an order might be given for payment and a record kept. Of all ordinary supplies there has been a large excess required this year. Without wearying the House, I think I have said sufficient to show hon. Members how the increase has occurred.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said he was much obliged to the hon. Gentleman for the information, and merely wished to ask whether the hon. Gentleman would consider the advisability of putting the details in the Estimates next year, which would haye the effect of preventing him and other hon, Members from making speeches.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I would be very ready to fall in with the hon. Gentleman's view, and am perfectly open to make a bargain with him. The hon. Gentleman asked me to explain the item for the Treasury Chest Fund. This consists of a fixed sum of about £700,000 to supply various treasury chests abroad, and to meet the needs of the Services in different places. In ordinary years there may be some deficiency to be made good owing to the loss incurred in transferring money. In the present year there has been a loss on the Treasury Chest Fund in some dozen different stations, and profits on treasury bills in half a dozen others, but of course the main item which has raised the figure this year is the very large sum required in South Africa for the pay of our forces. In ordinary times the money required by the treasury chest at the Cape is provided by the Cape Government, we supplying them in return with any money they may require in London. But owing to the very large increase in the amount necessitated by the war, the Cape Government were not able to supply us, and we were obliged to make arrangements with the banks instead.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND asked if the money for the troops would appear again in the Army Estimates.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Oh, yes, Sir. No money is included in this Vote for the payment of the troops; this is merely the cost of providing money in South Africa. Then, with reference to the provision of the Distinguished Service Order badges, the War Office anticipated that a considerable number would be required. [MR. LABOUCHERE: Have they got them in stock?] Yes, Sir; there are a certain number in stock, which will shortly be required. Some, I believe, have already been required in connection with the operations in China and West Africa, though none up to the present in connection with the operations in South Africa. By ordering a very large number we have been able to secure a very considerable reduction on each badge. [MR. W. REDMOND: How much?] I speak from memory, but I think I am substantially correct when I say that the reduction is from £9 12s. to £6. [MR. W. REDMOND: How much does a Victoria Cross cost?] There are no Victoria Crosses in this Vote, but I imagine that the Victoria Cross does not cost anything like as much as the Distinguished Service Order Badge. The hon. Member suggested, I do not think seriously, that the recipients of these honours should be called upon to pay for them. I think that would be very ungracious, all the more as the Order is one that is given to all ranks, and may therefore be a very heavy tax on the scanty means of some of the recipients.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick) said that, while acknowledging the courtesy of the hon. Gentleman, he desired to call attention to two points. There was an enormous increase in the Post Office Vote, regarding which he should like to have an explanation. Then there was £200,000 added for Commissions. He was a Member of the Port and Dock Board of Dublin, and he wished to have a Commission appointed, and would like to know its probable cost. Then the expenses connected with the Scotch Private Bill Act were increased by £100,000. He would also like some explanation as to that, because it was a subject in which Irish Members took an enormous amount of interest. He objected, as a business man, to the way in which the Supply Estimates were brought forward in one sum. The heads of the different Departments ought to be criticised across the floor of the House in a businesslike fashion. He hoped the system would not be used as a precedent, but that in future the financial business of the House would be carried on on ordinary business principles. Surely no commercial firm would lump such an enormous number of items together without giving an opportunity of their being analysed or audited. He entirely agreed with what had been said with regard to the savings banks, and believed it would be highly prejudicial if the rate of interest were to fluctuate. In his opinion it ought to be a settled rate. He trusted the hon. Gentleman would give him some information about the increase in the Post Office Vote. Of course, he knew it extended over the three kingdoms, but still the Post Office authorities ought to be able to judge their expenditure better.

MR. NANNETTI said that with reference to the stationery and printing contracts he was not satisfied with the explanation that had been given. As a printer himself he would not object to the expenditure, provided it was spent among the working printers of England. He should like to know how many of the thirteen million envelopes referred to by the hon. Gentleman were produced in England. He knew well that none of them were manufactured in Ireland, and the next best thing, to his mind, was that they should be of English manufacture, and that Germany and other Continental countries should not get the money. If there were thirteen million envelopes he wished to know how many millions of reams of notepaper were required. The printers of England were badly in want of employment, and he should be glad to know that the money mentioned in the Vote was spent among them. He also wished to know whether all the money went into one firm or was spread over a number of firms, or spent in overtime. If the overtime system were adopted, owing to pressure or otherwise, it was a very bad thing, and he would appeal to the hon. Gentleman to put a stop to it..

MR. FLAVIN said he hoped that the hon Gentleman would give the information which his hon. friend had asked for. Apart from political considerations he felt that the subject was very important to the manufacturers of England, if not to the manufacturers of Ireland. The taxpayers of Great Britain were compelled, owing to war and other unforeseen causes, to pay very heavy rates, and the very least they could expect was that the money raised by that means should be distributed among them again. Although hon. Members had pressed the question again and again they had been unable to obtain any information as to where the envelopes and other articles mentioned were manufactured. They all knew that in Germany, owing to the sweating system, envelopes could be supplied at a cheaper rate than in England. He hoped the hon. Gentleman in charge of the Vote would give some explanation on the matter. Then, with reference to the printing for public Departments, he certainly had not heard any detailed explanation regarding it. It was extraordinary that on every single occasion on which his hon. friends endeavoured to encourage the industries of England or of Ireland they were absolutely refused information. If it were to be the policy of the Government to boycott the industries not only of Ireland but of England and Scotland, and send money out of the country, then right hon. Gentlemen on the Treasury Bench should announce that policy at the General Election, but they would not do that. It might be said that his hon. friends spoke simply for the purpose of obstructing, but that was not so. They claimed all along the right to express their opinion on questions before the House. They had always complained of the small amount of money spent in their own country, although it contributed more than its fair share of taxation. They were compelled to pay, and could only make their protest. They were justified in protesting, not only on behalf of their own constituents, but on behalf of the constituents of other hon. Gentlemen who did not do their duty. Only a few nights ago he raised a very important question of interest to the agricultural community of England—namely, as to how corn was supplied to His Majesty's horses. But he could not obtain any information. He could assure hon. Gentlemen, however, that the more information was suppressed the more they were determined to press for it. He hoped the hon. Gentleman would answer the questions which had been raised, otherwise he was sure some of his hon. friends would think it necessary to continue the discussion.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I have no right to speak a second time, but, with the permission of the House, I may assure the hon. Member that all the stationery stores are ordered within the country.

MR. NANNETTI: What country? Does the hon. Gentleman mean England or Ireland?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Within the United Kingdom. All the stationery and printing required in Ireland is ordered in Ireland; and the whole of it within the United Kingdom. In every case where it is possible public competition is invited for tenders, the only exception being in the case of one or two firms where some speciality is required which only these firms can supply, but even these firms are in the position of having contracts obtained by public competition.

*MR. O'DOHERTY: Are we to understand that the stationery used in Government offices in Ireland is made from paper manufactured in Irish paper mills?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I understand that is so. Part of the increase of the Post Office Votes is due to the war, which involved a considerable increase in the stores; a great deal to the extra cartage by road owing to the removal to Mount Pleasant, and the remainder to the general increase of business which requires a larger staff, and the engagement of men to fill the places of the Reservists and others who have gone out to the war in South Africa, and whose places had to be filled in other ways.

MR. FIELD: Am I to understand that no considerable portion of this money is given to railway companies in the shape of increased subsidies?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: No, Sir.

*MR. O'DOHERTY said a question had been raised with reference to £700, the cost of the Salmon Fisheries Commission in Ireland. He wanted the assurance of the hon. Gentleman that the Government would take steps by legislation to carry out the recommendations of that Commission in order to protect the salmon fishing industry in Ireland.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: That is not the Commission of which the hon. Gentleman thinks. That is the Scottish Salmon Fishery Commission.

*MR. O'DOHERTY said that in Committee of Supply he had called the attention of the First Commissioner of Works to the increased Vote for fuel and light; and the First Commissioner informed the Committee that he had made certain arrangements with colliery owners in England for next year. He would like to draw attention to the fact that several Continental Governments were inquiring into the use of compressed peat for raising steam for machinery and ships. A few days ago there was an announcement in the *Engineer* that the Government of Sweden had appointed an expert to examine the peat resources of Sweden and Norway for the purpose of providing an economical fuel for the public service. If that were done, by the present Government in this country, it would go a good way towards developing a great industry not only in Ireland, but in Scotland. He asked the Government to give an assurance that they would appoint a Commission to inquire into the use of compressed peat, which would give employment to many people in the congested districts both of Ireland and Scotland. There might be a large saving to the British taxpayer, for no doubt during the last two years the Government had been at the mercy of the colliery owners. Apart from the saving in money, it might be the means of educating workmen in districts of the United Kingdom which were not coal-producing. He was glad to hear that a great part of the stationery used by the Government departments in Ireland was manufactured in Ireland; but the hon. Gentleman had not answered the question whether any part of the thirteen million envelopes required for the South African campaign were manufactured in Ireland, or whether they were manufactured entirely in England.

MR. GILHOOLY (Cork County, W.) said he wished to direct attention to the question of the failure of the Postmaster General to provide a postal service to the village of Castletown, Berehaven.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is not entitled to ask any question on the Post Office service unless it applies to the Supplementary Votes.

MR. GILHOOLY said he would draw attention to the subject on the Appropriation Bill next day.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 241; Noes 53. (Division List No. 100.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allen, Chas. P.(Glouc.,Stroud)
Allhusen, Augustus Hy. Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Asher, Alexander
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Asquith, Rt.Hon. Herb.Henry
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt.Hon.A.J.(Manch'r
Balfour,RtHnGeraldW.(Leeds
Bathurst, Hon.Allen Benjamin
Beach,Rt.Hn.SirM.H.(Bristol)
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brigg, John
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Caldwell, James
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N .Lancs.)
Cavendish, V.C.W.(Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,RtHon.J.(Birm.)
Chamberlain,J.Austen (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb,SirJohnCharlesReady
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, A.Cameron(Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox,Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross,Herb.Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies,SirHoratioD(Chatham
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale,Sir JosephCockfield
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elibank, Master of
Faber, George Denison
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fenwick, Charles
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Fuller, J. M. F.
Garfit, William
Gibbs,Hon.Vicary(St.Albans)
Gladstone,RtHnHerbertJohn
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Godson,SirAugustusFrederick
Gordon,MajEvans-(T'rH'mlt's
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt.Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene,Sir E.W.(BurySt.Edm
Greene,HenryD.(Shrewsbury)
Greene,W.Raymond-(Cambs.)
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hamilton,Rt.Hn. Ld.G.(Midx
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashf'd.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris,F. Leverton (Tynemth.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne,Rt.Hon. Charles Seale-
Heath,James (Staffords,N.W.)
Henderson, Alexander
Hobhouse,C. E.H.(Bristol, E.)
Hobhouse,Henry (Somerset,E.
Holland, William Henry
Hope,J.F(Sheffield,Brightside
Horniman, Frederick John
Howard,CaptJ(Kent,Faversh.
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kenyon,Hon.Geo.T.(Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W.(Salop.
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Lambton,Hon.FrederickWm.
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee,ArthurH(Hants.,Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower,FrederickN.S,
Levy, Maurice
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
Long,RtHn.Walter(Bristol,S.
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas,Col.Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
M‘Iver, David (Liverpool)
M‘Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M‘Arthur, William (Cornwall)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriessh.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, John T.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More,Rbt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow
Morgan, J. L. (Carmarthen)
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton,ArthurH.A.(Deptford
Morton, Edw.J.C.(Devonport)
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray,Col.Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, FrancisAlexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay

Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Partington, Oswald
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reckitt, Harold James
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Ridley, Hon. M. W(Stalybridge
Ridley, S. F. (Bethnal Green)
Rigg, Richard
Richie, Rt. Hon. Charles T.
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Col. Robert
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire
Smith, H C(North'mbTyneside
Smith, James Parker(Lanarks
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spencer, RtHnC. R. (Northants
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Ox. Univ.
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred (Merth r
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Lt.-Col. C. E.
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Weir, James Galloway
Welby, Lt.-Cl. A. C. E. (Taunt'n
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notts.
Wharton, Rt. Hn. John Lloyd
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whiteley, H (Ashton und. Lyne
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh., N.
Wodehouse, Hn. Armine (Essex
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E)

Tellers for the Ayes—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.
Ambrose, Robert
Bell, Richard
Boyle, James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Cawley, Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Delany, William
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hayden, John Patrick
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Joyce, Michael
Leamy, Edmund
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mooney, John J.
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Sullivan, Donal
Thompson, E. C. (Monaghan, N)
Whiteley, Geo. (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)

Tellers for the Noes—
Captain Donelan and Mr.
Patrick O'Brien.

SUPPLY [28th February] REPORT.

Remaining Resolutions [12th March] further considered:—

Civil Services Supplementary Estimates, 1900–1901.

Class I.

3. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £2,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for expenditure in respect of Diplomatic and Consular Buildings."

4. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £7,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Expenses of the Post Office, and Post Office Telegraph Buildings in Great Britain, including Furniture, Fuel, and Sundry Miscellaneous services."

Third Resolution:—

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND said he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give some details of the Vote.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's) said that the Supplementary Estimates were partly occasioned by changes in Embassies abroad. Further, at Lisbon the sanitary arrangements, which were entirely wrong, had to be set right.

MR. FLAVIN asked why a house which was suitable for the previous occupant was not suitable for his successor.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS said that he thought that a house that had been occupied for five or six years by an Ambassador and his family required a certain amount of painting and alteration when it was vacated.

Question put, and agreed to.

Fourth Resolution :—

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

MR. FLAVIN said that in connection with the Vote they had pressed the right hon. Gentleman very strongly to give some information as to the contracts. In July, 1900, Her Majesty's Government entered into a contract for the supply of fuel for a period of six months, and in some cases for fifteen months, when fuel was at its highest price. If the right hon. Gentleman was catering for his own household he would not enter into such a contract at that time. They had failed to obtain the name of the mine owner who supplied the fuel, and also as to whether the lowest tender was accepted. They had also asked, in Committee, for information as to household articles referred to in the Vote, and as to whether they were manufactured in England or Ireland. The right hon. Gentleman and his officials were directly responsible for having entered into a contract for fuel when coal was at its highest price. Anyone who knew the conditions of the coal market knew very well that the price could not have gone higher, and he could not see any justification or excuse for such a transaction.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS said that in regard to the coal contract tenders were asked from all the firms in South Wales who supplied the kind of coal they required. They accepted the two lowest tenders which were made. As to the length of the contracts, in the first instance the contract was for six months, and in the other instance for three months.

MR. FLYNN said they all acknowledged the conciliatory tone of the right hon. Gentleman, and his desire to explain as well as he could the various items in the Vote, but surely he would recognise that no private individual in conducting his business would consider it good accounting that the original Estimate should be exceeded by 50 per cent. If these Supplementary Estimates merely represented small amounts they might be explained on the ground that they were almost inevitable, but with a few exceptions the Supplementary Estimates were for large and alarming amounts.

MR. POWER said that the prediction of the state of things which would follow the new rule introduced by the First Lord of the Treasury had been borne out by what had taken place. If the officials who made up original Estimates came to believe that Supplementary Estimates would pass without criticism they would become careless in the preparation of the Estimates. No good business man in the conduct of his own affairs would be so very much out of his calculation as the Government appeared to be in regard to these Estimates.

MR. NANNETTI said there were coalfields in Ireland that might have been utilised. There were districts in Ireland where, he was happy to say, coal was being produced at 10s. per ton. He would suggest to the right hon. Gentleman the First Commissioner of Works that the Government would be doing a good act if they encouraged the Irish to develop the coalfields of the country. That question might be worthy of the consideration of the Cabinet.

MR. CULLINAN (Tipperary, S.) said that as a new Member he would state the opinion he had formed in regard to the manner in which the Estimates were prepared. In local boards throughout the country the Estimates when submitted gave details in order that the members of those boards might perfectly understand what was to be done with the money. He found the Estimates submitted in that House did not give the details they ought to give. When this matter was before them on a previous occasion they had what was described as an unpleasant and disgraceful scene in the House. Why was that? It was because the information asked by the Nationalist Members was not supplied. It was a most unbusinesslike method to have these large accounts lumped together with no details, and so far as he was concerned he would, while he was in that House, try to resist the system and press every Minister to give information as to how the money was expended.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 182, Noes, 49. (Division List No. 101.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Asher, Alexander
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (Leeds
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol)
Bell, Richard
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Caldwell, James
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow
Cranborne, Viscount
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chatham
Dickson, Charles Scott
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elibank, Master of
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fenwick, Charles
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Gladstone, Rt Hn Herbert John
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Maj. E. (T'wer H'mlts
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Sir E. W. (B'ry S Edm'ds
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.)
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (M'dx)
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'd
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Heath, James (Staffords., N. W.
Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.
Hope, J F (Sheffield, Brightside
Howard, Capt J (Kent, Faversh.
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.
Keswick, William
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N S.
Levy, Maurice
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Maxwell, W. J. (Dumfriesshire
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, R. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow
Morley, Charles (Breconshire
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Penn, John
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Priestley, Arthur
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Radcliffe, R. F.
Reckitt, Harold James
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rentoul, James Alexander
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green
Rigg, Richard
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Capt. J. (Forfarshire)
Smith, H C (Northumb Tyns'ide
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer, Rt. Hn C R (Northants
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stock, James Henry
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Ure, Alexander
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notts.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-L.
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, Arthur S. (York, E.R.
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Ambrose, Robert
Boyle, James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Delany, William
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, James H.
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Hardie, J. K. (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hayden, John Patrick
Jameson, Maj. J. Eustace
Joyce, Michael
Leamy, Edmund
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mooney, John J.
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid.)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, J. E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Sullivan, Donal
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Weir, James Galloway
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

SUPPLY [1ST MARCH] REPORT.

Remaining Resolutions [14th March] further considered.

CIVIL SERVICE SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1900–1901.

Class II.

4. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £6,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs."

5. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £7,200, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies."

6. "That a sum, not exceeding £1,015, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1901, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Office of the Lord Privy Seal."

Fourth Resolution:—

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND asked why the Supplementary Estimates for the increased cost of telegrams were placed in two Votes. On the Vote just passed there were £15,000 for telegrams, and on the one before the House there were another £6,000. Such a system was very confusing, and perhaps the Secretary of State would state why the money was thus divided.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Viscount CRANBORNE, Rochester): The Vote which the House had under consideration just now was for telegrams sent from abroad to the Foreign Office—diplomatic and consular telegrams. This Vote is for telegrams sent abroad from the Foreign Office, which therefore are accounted for under the Foreign Office. The reason the double Estimate is kept up is simply that it follows the pattern set by the main Estimate, as of course it must do.

MR. FLYNN: Is not the real reason that there has been a great addition to the cost of telegrams owing to the state of affairs in China?

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: That is so.

MR. FLYNN further asked whether the Foreign Office had not some system under which their telegrams were sent at a lower rate than is charged ordinarily.

MR. FLAVIN thought it rather extraordinary that the additional sum required should be an even £6,000, without an odd pound or shilling. Did the £6,000 represent the actual amount spent, or did it represent merely in round figures the amount required? In his judgment, it was not a correct statement of the actual amount of the deficiency which they were asked to vote.

MR. FIELD wished to know if the Government had made any special terms with the telegraph companies in regard to the prices charged for telegrams in the Vote.

*MR. SPEAKER: The question whether the companies charge different rates or not does not come under this Vote.

MR. FIELD said that all he wished to know from the noble Lord was whether any endeavour had been made to enter into an arrangement with the companies so that the telegraphic service might be carried out with economy.

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: The reason why this item for telegrams appears as a round sum is that it is in the nature of an Estimate up to the 31st of March, and it is, therefore, impossible to go into those odd shillings which have been referred to.

MR. FLAVIN asked how the single pound came into the Estimate?

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: Because we are dealing with the Supplementary Estimate and not with the original Estimate. This question as to the rates paid for telegrams has nothing to do with my Department, for it concerns the Post Office, but I know that Government telegrams are sent cheaper and there is a reduction allowed for taking a quantity.

Question put and agreed to.

Fifth Resolution:—

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said he did not know whether the explanation given by the noble Lord in regard to the last Vote held good in reference to this Vote. He desired to know why the excess telegrams charged for were not put all into one Vote.

MR. FLYNN asked if the Colonial Office got those telegrams at a special rate?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Yes

MR. FIELD wished to know if the telegrams alluded to were in connection with the war in South Africa.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: It is stated in the Vote that they are cablegrams in connection with South Africa and Ashanti.

*MR. FLYNN said it was stated in the Vote——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member has already spoken,

MR. FLYNN contended that he had a right to speak upon the other Vote, and there was an item of £7,200 in connection with official telegrams from the office of the Colonial Secretary to His Majesty's representatives in South Africa. That being so, he wished to know how many of those telegrams had been given to the public.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That will arise on the Vote for the salary of the Colonial Secretary.

MR. FLAVIN said they had down in the Vote simply an item of £7,200 for telegrams. Were they not entitled to some information as to the number of telegrams which were sent, and to ask whether they were genuine or not?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: In regard to the number of telegrams, we have no information. The telegrams are those sent between the Government and His Majesty's representatives in South Africa and Ashanti. All those telegrams of importance to the House and the country have already been published, and a vast number of the telegrams upon this Vote are upon trifling matters of business and departmental subjects which, if we were to publish them, would constitute a whole library.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 173; Noes, 44. (Division List No. 102.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir Wm. Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Asher, Alexander
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds
Bathurst, Hon. A. Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Bell, Richard
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Caldwell, James

Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F .(N. Lancs.)
Cavendish,V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,Rt. Hn. J.(Birm.)
Chamberlain,J. Austen(Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow
Cranborne, Viscount
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Dickson, Charles Scott
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, James H.
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elibank, Master of
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fenwick, Charles
Fielden, Edw. Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Gladstone,RtHnHerbertJohn
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Godson,SirAugustusFrederick
Gordon,MajEvans-(TrH'mlets
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen,Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
GreeneSirEW(B'ry.SEdm'nds
Greene,HenryD.(Shrewsbury)
Greene,W. Raymond-(Cambs.
Grenfell, William Henry
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hamilton,RtHn.Ld.G(Midd'x
Hardy,Laurence(Kent, Ashfd.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne,Rt. Hon. CharlesSeale-
Heath,James(Staffords.,N.W.
Hobhouse,Henry(Somerset,E.
Hope,J. F. (Sheffield,Brightsd.
Howard,CaptJ(Kent,Faversh·
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Kenyon,Hon. Geo. T.(Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney,ColW.(Salop.
Keswick, William
Knowles, Lees
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower,FrederickN.S.
Levy, Maurice
Lockwood, Lt. Col. A. R.
Long,ColCharlesW.(Evesham
Long,Rt. Hn. Walter(Bristol, S
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas,Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsm'th
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Maxwell,W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore,JohnThrogmort'n
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More,Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
Morgan,DavidJ.(Walthamst.)
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray,RtHnA. Graham(Bute
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Penn, John
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Priestley, Arthur
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reckitt, Harold James
Reid, James (Greenock)
Rentoul, James Alexander
Ridley,Hon. M. W.(Stalybridge
Ridley,S. Forde(Bethnal Green
Rigg, Richard
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney
Roe, Sir Thomas
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith,HC(North'mb. Tyneside
Smith, Jas. Parker (Lanarks.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stock, James Henry
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomas,F. Freeman-(Hastings
Thornton, Percy M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkney
Weir, James Galloway
Welby,SirCharlesG. E.(Notts.
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whiteley,H(Ashton-und. Lyne
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson,A. Stanley(York,E. R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wortley,Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young,Commander (Berks,E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham,William (Cork,N. E.
Ambrose, Robert
Boyle, James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Delany, William
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Hardie,J. Keir(MerthyrTydvil
Hayden, John Patrick
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Joyce, Michael
Leamy, Edmund
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mooney, John J.
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.)
O'Connor,James(Wicklow,W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, J. (Kerry, W
O'Dowd, John
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond,JohnE. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Sullivan, Donal

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

Sixth Resolution :—

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR said that it might be remembered that, when the Vote was under discussion before, he raised a question about the renewal or, what he might call, the recrudescence of the office of Lord Privy Seal, and that the First Lord of the Treasury defended it as on the whole a convenient abnormality. That was what his reply came to. He did not intend to renew the discussion, but he wished to put one point before the House. The Lord Privy Seal was the Prime Minister, but as Prime Minister he did not appear on the Estimates. As Lord Privy Seal he had no duties to perform, and he appeared on the Estimates in that capacity in order that he might receive a salary for the position of Prime Minister, who had no official or legally-recognised position, and which, therefore, could not be paid for out of public funds. He wished to point out that the Prime Minister as Prime Minister was mainly responsible for the policy of the Government, of which he was the chief. They could not discuss his duties as Lord Privy Seal, there being no such duties, and how, therefore, were they to discuss his policy as Prime Minister, when as Prime Minister he did not appear on the Estimates?

*MR. SPEAKER: The only course open to the hon. Member is to bring forward the question as an independent substantive motion. The only matter that can be debated now is the duties of Lord Privy Seal.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR said that was precisely his point. He desired to direct attention to the fact that the Supplementary Vote they were discussing differed from the ordinary Supplementary Votes, because it appeared not as a Supplementary Vote at all, but as a substantive Vote.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member hardly appreciates what I have said. He cannot discuss on this Vote whether or not the salary of the Prime Minister ought to be put upon the Votes in some way so that he could be criticised in his capacity as Prime Minister. That is a matter for a substantive motion.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall) said that, when the Vote was discussed in Committee, the First Lord of the Treasury and the Attorney General very carefully pointed out that the money in the Vote was not given to its recipient as Lord Privy Seal, but as Prime Minister. The question was discussed whether the salary was sufficient for the Prime Minister, and there appeared to be a general concurrence of opinion that the amount should be increased to £5,000. He now wished to ask when hon. Members could possibly discuss the policy of the Prime Minister if not on this Vote. He did not propose to discuss it now, but as a precedent for the future, and with all respect to what had been said from the Chair, he wished to point out as strongly as he could that the House of Commons ought to have it in its power to discuss this Vote as a Vote for the Prime Minister, as undoubtedly it was.

*MR. SPEAKER: If Lord Salisbury were still Foreign Secretary and Prime Minister, his duties as Prime Minister could not be discussed on the Vote for the salary of the Foreign Secretary. It is exactly the same with the Lord Privy Seal. The duties of the Prime Minister cannot be discussed on the Vote for the office of Lord Privy Seal.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT said that the House was therefore in the position that they could discuss the position of the Lord Privy Seal, who had no duties, and were prevented from discussing his position as Prime Minister, for which this Vote was intended.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR said that the position of Premiership was not on the Estimates, and he asked the First Lord whether he did not feel himself compelled, in fairness to the House, to find some opportunity of associating the Prime Minister with an office, such as that of the First Lord of the Treasury, so that the right of criticism applied to every member of the Government might be applied to the Prime Minister.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said the hon. Gentleman was labouring under a mistake. The First Lord of the Treasury had certain duties assigned to him. They were told that those duties were not onerous. He did not mean to discuss whether they were onerous or not, but they did not carry the duties of the Prime Minister. In truth, the hon. Gentleman was dealing not with an anomaly created by the new circumstances in respect to the office of Lord Privy Seal, but an anomaly attaching to the office of Prime Minister. The difficulties of discussion were inherent in that strange and abnormal characteristic of the British Constitution by which the chief person in that Constitution had no recognised place. The Constitution did not recognise the Prime Minister; there were no official duties for him to perform, and there was no salary attached to the position of Prime Minister as such. Therefore, even if the Prime Minister also held the office of First Lord of the Treasury, or any other office, it would be impossible to discuss any action of the First Minister of the Crown, as Prime Minister, until Parliament chose to create the office of Prime Minister and attach to it a salary. This might be abnormal, but on the whole it was expedient, for it was impossible to say where the duties of the Prime Minister began or ended. He supposed that in a sense the Prime Minister was responsible for the action of all his colleagues, but it would be highly inconvenient to discuss his action in that form.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said it was now getting on for two o'clock in the morning, and the House of Commons was engaged in the extraordinary task of voting a sum of £2,000 to a gentleman because he held an office which, anmittedly, had no duties whatever connected with it. Such an absurdity never was heard since Mr. Gilbert gave up writing comic operas for the Savoy theatre. Would it not have been quite as easy for the Government to come down and say, "Let us pay the Prime Minister £2,000 a year," or whatever salary they thought fit to mention? That would have been a straightforward course, and would, at any rate, have relieved the House of Commons from the absurd position in which it now found itself. Apart from the absurdity of it, he protested against voting this salary at all. To his mind there was nothing more extraordinary in the political life of England than the line drawn between the private Member of Parliament and the purely official Member. If ever a question was raised as to the payment of M.P.'s generally, a howl of indignation was at once heard from one end of the building to the other. It was held that there was no justification in pointing out that payment of Members of Parliament obtained in our colonies and other countries. The very idea of private Members of Parliament being remunerated in this country was treated with derision and hoots. It was said that it would be derogatory to the position of a Member of the House of Commons, and perish the thought of such a thing! But if they got away from the private Members, who worked as hard as Members of the Government, if they did their duty, and came to—he did not use the phrase in any offensive sense at all—the very meanest and most insignificant Member of the Ministry—then the idea of payment at once blossomed into an absolute necessity. He did not object to Members of the Government being paid for performing duties necessary for the conduct of the Government of the country, but he did say that as long as private Members had to keep the same hours, and to pay the same attention to current affairs in the House of Commons, had to read the same Parliamentary Reports, and had to sit up to the same hour of the night or morning, as Members of the Government, and were paid nothing, he would, for one, utter his most emphatic protest, not against payment of members of the Government, but against extending that principle to the absurd suggestion of paying £2,000 a year to the occupant of an office which they were truly told had no duties attaching to it at all. Now the Prime Minister of England either deserved a salary or he did not. If he deserved a salary, why all this hugger-mugger about it? It would be as easy to vote a salary to the Prime Minister as to vote millions to spend on the war. If they were going to create a new salary for another Member of the present Government, which, collectively, was already overpaid, they should do it honestly and not humiliate the Prime Minister by putting him in the position of Pooh Bah!

MR. FLYNN said he did not think the ruling of the Chairman had brought the discussion of this Constitutional fiction down to real business. He was surprised at the absurdity of the Government gravely, seriously, and with a full sense of moral responsibility asking the House to vote £2,000 a year for the payment of an office-holder who had no duties whatever. Did anything in the Gilbertian writings transcend that? But it was not only the Lord Privy Seal's salary. The House was asked to vote the salaries of two private secretaries to a Minister who had no duties, and he supposed these private secretaries would have nothing to do either. If the Government had any sense of the humorous they would withdraw the Vote. It would be far more straightforward to propose a salary for the Prime Minister. The Vote was not a Supplementary Estimate at all. It had been put down newly, and it would have been equally simple to put down a Vote for the Prime Minister, and pay him for the duties he discharged and not pay him for an office which had no duties. He thought his hon. friend was perfectly justified in making his protest. Payment of Members was derided by hon. Members opposite, and by none with more sarcasm than right hon. Gentlemen on the Front Treasury Bench. They said, "Why pay a paltry £200 or £300 a year to men who come into the House of Commons to discharge their duties? It would lower the prestige of Parliament and of public life and public character." But it was not at all derogatory to the highest Member of the Government to have a salary even for an office in which he discharged no duties. If an intelligent foreigner could be confronted with the House of Commons solemnly sitting up till two o'clock in the morning to vote a salary for an office which had no duties, he would consider that hon. Members had reached the acme of absurdity.

MR. NANNETTI said he also desired to protest against a salary being voted to the Lord Privy Seal. The people of England ought to thank the Irish Members for having called attention to the anomaly of voting money for an office which it was admitted had no duties. He was surprised that no hon. Member had spoken on behalf of the over-taxed people of England. It was like throwing money into the Thames after having wrung it out of the unfortunate taxpayers of the country, and, in his opinion, it was nothing less than a scandal. He had no objection to voting Lord Salisbury a proper salary for discharging the duties of Prime Minister, because he held that, whether as a Member of the Government, or as a private Member, the man who did the work of the State was entitled to be paid for it. They would be neglecting their duty to their constituents if they allowed the Vote to pass without a protest. They were not sent to the House of Commons to follow the lead of the First Lord of the Treasury. Every Vote would be amply and properly discussed, and they would leave hon. Members opposite to follow their Leader and vote.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.) said he had seen during his short acquaintance with the House many strange things attempted, but he was afraid he must characterise the attempt which was being made on the present occasion as one of the most unconstitutional acts he had ever seen. After all, what were they proposing? It was said that the office of Prime Minister carried no official salary. It was also said that the office of Lord Privy Seal did not carry with it in recent years any official salary, and the question then arose to which of the two offices was £2,000 a year to be allocated. The only conclusion that the Irish Members could come to was that while the money was apparently voted for the office of Lord Privy Seal, which has no duties, and which therefore could not be criticised in the House of Commons, it was really intended for the Prime Minister, though not given to him as such, in order that he might escape criticism. It would be more honourable and more reasonable on the part of the Government to assert plainly that they intended to give a salary to the Prime Minister as Prime Minister, and not to attach a salary to an office which had not had a salary in recent years. Taking into account the family relations which existed between members of the Government, he thought that the country should be enlightened on the innovation which had been introduced. They were led to believe that that family were very well able to look after their own interests. Irish Members intended to criticise every Vote coming before the House. They never hoped to gain anything from the salaries and positions which Englishmen might hope to gain. They did not even hope that Ministers would ever consider the working man in the House of Commons as worthy of a salary. That, in the minds of Members opposite, would be a very dangerous innovation, because then poor men would be able to attend the House of Commons and look after the interests of their class, which were now neglected in favour of the interests of ascendancy.

Mr. DOOGAN (Tyrone, E.) said he was surprised that Members of the House of Commons should vote away public money without receiving any return whatever for it. There were no duties attaching to the office of Lord Privy Seal, and if such a transaction occurred in private life it would be considered a very serious matter. The anomaly in his opinion had arisen from the Prime Minister being in the Upper House. If the Prime Minister were in the House of Commons he would receive a salary as First Lord of the Treasury. Supposing the Prime Minister had a seat in the House of Commons, would he still hold the office of Lord Privy Seal and draw the salary of £2,000? Would he have added to that the salary of the First Lord of the Treasury, or would that office be held separately from that of the First Lord of the Treasury? These were questions which should be looked into. What would be the position a few years hence, when he hoped and he dared to say it was the general opinion of the House the work of the country would be done by a Prime Minister sitting in the House of Commons? It was certainly most important that no public money should be voted merely as a gratuity.

Mr. FIELD said he entirely agreed with what had fallen from his colleagues in regard to the salary paid to the Lord Privy Seal, who held an office to which no duties were attached. If they were to have a Prime Minister, he ought to be paid, and not only so, but he should be paid the largest salary that came from the public purse. It ought to be put before the House in a business fashion. The officials of the House were well salaried, but the Members who came there to do the work received nothing but ignominy and calumny.

Mr. FLAVIN asked what were the duties of the two private secretaries, who received £400 and £200 a year, if there were no duties in connection with the office of Lord Privy Seal.

*Mr. O'DOHERTY said they were told that they could not discuss the duties of the Prime Minister as such on this Vote. He thought, however, when they found that the Vote included salaries for two private secretaries they were entitled to ask what their duties were. If a district or county council in Ireland were to put forward such an item of expenditure the Government auditor would be down on their heads, and the members of the council would be surcharged for the sum thus paid. He believed in calling a spade a spade, and he had no hesitation in saying, although the Vote was fathered by the First Lord of the Treasury, that it was nothing more nor less than obtaining money under false pretences.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 148; Noes, 52. (Division List No. 103.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Asher, Alexander
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r.
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Brstl.)
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chath'm
Dickson, Charles Scott
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elibank, Master of
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fenwick, Charles
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.
Gordon, Maj. Evans-(Tr. Hmlts
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Sir E W (B'ry S Edm'nds
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.)
Grenfell, William Henry
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (Mid'x
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'rd
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, James (Staffords, N. W.
Henderson, Alexander
Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brights'de
Howard, Capt. J (Kent Faversh.
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnston, Heywood (Sussex)
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh're
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)

Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W.(Salop)
Keswick, William
Knowles, Lees
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower,FrederickN.S.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long,Col.CharlesW (Evesham
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Bristol,S
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas,Col.Francis(Lowestoft)
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth
Macdona, John Cumming
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriessh.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore,JohnThrogmort'n
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Morgan,DavidJ(Walthamst'w
Morley, Chas. (Breconshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Mowbray, Sir Rbt. Gray C.
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray,RtHnAGraham (Bute
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath
Newdigate, FrancisAlexander
Nicholson, Wm. Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reckitt, Harold James
Reid, James (Greenock)
Rentoul, James Alexander
Ridley, Hon.MW(Stalybridge
Ridley,S.Forde(BethnalGreen
Rigg, Richard
Ritchie,Rt.Hn.Chas.Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Scott, Sir S.(Marylebone, W.
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sharpe, Wm. Edward T.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith,HC(North'mbTyneside
Smith, Jas. Parker (Lanarks.
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs)
Stock, James Henry
Talbot,Lord E.(Chichester)
Thornton, Percy M.
Ure, Alexander
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Wason,John Cathcart(Orkney
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (Notts
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-u-Lyne
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson,A.Stanley (York,E.R.
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wortley, Rt.Hn.C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young,Commander(Berks,E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Ambrose, Robert
Boyle, James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Delany, William
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Jameson, Maj. J. Eustace
Joyce, Michael
Leamy, Edmund
Levy, Maurice
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mooney, John J.
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid.)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Reddy, M.
Redmond, J. E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sullivan, Donal
Weir, James Galloway

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

SUPPLY [5TH MARCH].

Resolution reported:—

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1901–2 (VOTE ON ACCOUNT).

"That a sum, not exceeding £17,304,000, be granted to His Majesty, on account, for or towards defraying the Charges for the following Civil Services and Revenue Departments for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902, namely:—

CIVIL SERVICES.

	£
Class IV.	
Board of Education	4,100,000
Class II.	
Board of Trade	60,000
Class I.	
Royal Palaces and Marlborough House	20,000
Royal Parks and Pleasure Gardens	40,000
Houses of Parliament Buildings ...	16,000
Gladstone Monument	1,000
Miscellaneous Legal Buildings, Great Britain	18,000
Art and Science Buildings, Great Britain	12,000
Diplomatic and Consular Buildings	12,000
Revenue Buildings	140,000
Public Buildings, Great Britain ...	145,000
Surveys of the United Kingdom ...	80,000
Harbours under the Board of Trade	2,000
Peterhead Harbour	6,000
Rates on Government Property ...	250,000
Public Works and Buildings, Ireland	70,000
Railways, Ireland	70,000
Class II.	
United Kingdom and England:—	
House of Lords, Offices	3,000
House of Commons, Offices... ...	12,000
Treasury and Subordinate Departments...	39,000
Home Office	50,000
Foreign Office	30,000
Colonial Office	23,000

Privy Council Office, etc.	5,000
Privy Seal Office	1,000
Mercantile Marine Services... ...	30,000
Bankruptcy Department of the Board of Trade	3
Board of Agriculture	75,000
Charity Commission...	15,000
Civil Service Commission	18,000
Exchequer and Audit Department...	24,000
Friendly Societies Registry ...	2,200
Local Government Board	85,000
Lunacy Commission	5,000
Mint (including Coinage)	10
National Debt Office...	6,000
Public Record Office	11,000
Public Works Loan Commission ...	5
Registrar General's Office	130,000
Stationery and Printing	280,000
Woods, Forests, etc., Office of ...	8,000
Works and Public Buildings, Office of	23,000
Secret Service...	40,000
Scotland :—	
Secretary for Scotland	25,500
Fishery Board...	8,000
Lunacy Commission	2,500
Registrar General's Office	28,000
Local Government Board	5,000
Ireland :—	
Lord Lieutenant's Household ...	2,000
Chief Secretary and Subordinate Departments	16,000
Department of Agriculture ...	70,000
Charitable Donations and Bequests Office...	1,000
Local Government Board	26,000
Public Record Office	2,000
Public Works Office	16,000
Registrar General's Office	20,000
Valuation and Boundary Survey ...	6,000
CLASS III.	
United Kingdom and England :—	
Law Charges	40,000
Miscellaneous Legal Expenses ...	27,000
Supreme Court of Judicature ...	140,000
Land Registry	14,000
County Courts	14,000
Police, England and Wales... ...	22,000
Prisons, England and the Colonies	260,000
Reformatory and Industrial Schools, Great Britain	140,000
Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum	18,000
Scotland :—	
Law Charges and Courts of Law ...	30,000
Register House, Edinburgh... ...	15,000
Crofters Commission...	2,000
Prisons, Scotland	30,000
Ireland :—	
Law Charges and Criminal Prosecutions	35,000
Supreme Court of Judicature, and other Legal Departments... ...	45,000
Land Commission	50,000
County Court Officers, etc.... ...	46,000
Dublin Metropolitan Police ...	40,000
Royal Irish Constabulary	600,000
Prisons, Ireland	45,000
Reformatory and Industrial Schools	55,500
Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum	3,500
Class IV.	
United Kingdom and England :—	
British Museum	80,000
National Gallery	9,000
National Portrait Gallery	3,000
Wallace Collection	4,000
Scientific Investigation, etc., United Kingdom	25,000
Universities and Colleges, Great Britain, and Intermediate Education, Wales	41,000
Scotland :—	
Public Education	650,000
National Gallery	1,400
Ireland :—	
Public Education	600,000
Endowed Schools Commissioners ...	400
National Gallery	1,400
Queen's Colleges	2,500
Class V.	
Diplomatic and Consular Services	225,000
Uganda, Central and East Africa Protectorates and Uganda Railway	320,000
Colonial Services	230,000
Cyprus, Grant-in-Aid	15,000
Subsidies to Telegraph Companies	50,000
Class VI.	
Superannuation and Retired Allowances	280,000
Merchant Seamen's Fund Pensions, etc.	3,000
Miscellaneous Charitable and other Allowances	1,000
Hospitals and Charities, Ireland ...	17,000
Class VII.	
Temporary Commission	10,082
Miscellaneous Expenses	8,000
Total for Civil Services ...	£10,434,000

REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

Customs	350,000
Inland Revenue	830,000
Post Office	3,800,000
Post Office Packet Service	210,000
Post Office Telegraphs	1,680,000
Total for Revenue Departments...	£6,870,000
Grand Total ...	£17,304,000

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT protested against a Vote of such magnitude being taken between two and three o'clock in the morning. The Vote in Committee was discussed for only one night, and the entire evening was then occupied with the important but not very practical subject of education. The Vote included items of Supply of all descriptions — English, Irish, Scotch, Welsh, foreign and colonial—and yet it was closured after so short a consideration. There certainly appeared to be a desire to prevent the House discussing most important matters, and, seeing that the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill was to be practically devoted to a discussion on the Irish Local Government Board, he thought he was justified in making this protest.

MAJOR JAMESON (Clare, W.) declared that the Vote would take a week to discuss properly, but he would confine himself to two items. The first was the question of harbours under the Board of Trade. Two years ago a Board of Trade inquiry was held into the ownership of the Kilrush pier, and the Report of that inquiry proved that His Majesty's Lieutenant, although he had tried to keep possession of the pier, originally stole it. In all, about £1,200 had been expended on the pier, of which £600 was returned by the Board of Trade, and it was proved that His Majesty's Lieutenant had no interest in it whatever. This was the only pier in Ireland which had not been placed under the urban district council. Capitalising the rates which had been lost to the town, the ratepayers had been deprived of about £700. The hon. Member was proceeding to discuss the matter in greater detail, when—

*MR. SPEAKER ruled that the matter could not be considered under the Vote before the House.

MAJOR JAMESON said he would pass from that to the Constabulary Vote. In January last a man named Ryan was arrested by Sergeant Sherridan and a constable for posting seditious notices. The man was kept in prison from January 1st to January 26th, when a sort of Star Chamber Court sat upon the case, with the result that the man was spirited away and the sergeant and constable dismissed from the force. Either the man posted those threatening notices, in which case he should be brought to trial, or he had nothing to do with it, in which case the sergeant and constable should have been prosecuted for making false evidence. If the police were guilty, they should have been placed in the dock, while if they were not guilty a great injustice had been inflicted upon them by their dismissal from the force. If ever there was a case which required a public inquiry, this case did.

MR. BOYLE (Donegal, W.) said he wished to enter his protest against the policy which had been adopted by the Chief Secretary since he came into office, for he appeared to be adopting the same *regime* as his predecessor. If the costs of the abortive prosecutions which had been alluded to were included in this item as law charges and criminal prosecutions a more monstrous charge was never imposed upon the English public. Until the administration in Ireland came more in touch with the people there never would be peace. The small section of Ireland represented by the hon. Member for North Armagh had more influence in the House of Commons than the large district represented by the hon. Member for Waterford. He intended to oppose this Vote as strenuously as he could. He believed that the Chief Secretary had the best possible intentions towards Ireland, and if his hands were untied he had no doubt that the right hon. Gentleman would do something towards removing many of the grievances complained of. It was on those grounds that he protested against this Vote. He hoped that the Chief Secretary would inquire into the needs and requirements of the country and look into the office directed by the Attorney General's devil in Dublin Castle. He knew the Attorney's General devil in Ireland.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The official of whom the hon. Member is speaking is not a member of the Government. He must address himself to something more serious, and which really has something to do with the question.

MR. BOYLE said he had been much impressed up to the present by the sympathetic policy the Chief Secretary had adopted, and he would conclude by taking this opportunity of asking the right hon. Member to look with the greatest possible suspicion upon his advisers in Dublin Castle.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.) said he desired to bring forward a matter with reference to the recent disturbances in Portadown, which was distinguished not only from the rest of Ulster, but from the rest of Ireland, religious enmity being rampant there. Last August the Catholics, who were in a minority in the town, proposed to have an excursion to Bundoran, and, warned by past experience that they might possibly be assaulted by their Orange brethren, even when engaged in amusing themselves, the hon. Secretary to the Catholic Young Men's Association on 19th August addressed the following letter to the District Inspector of Police—

> "Dear Sir,—I am instructed by the Committee of the above Association to inform you that the members and their friends are going on an excursion to Bundoran on Sunday next, 26th inst., leaving Portadown Station at 8 a.m. and returning back again about 9.30 p.m., and to ask you to kindly make arrangements for their safety in your district. They will assemble at the station, but going to it and returning to their homes the police should be on the streets. They will travel viâ Armagh going and returning. Water Street, Bury Street, Edgarstown, etc., should be patrolled, and we would suggest that where a crowd assembles if some of their names were taken it would have a good effect, as they then would be afraid to do wrong."

That letter was a proper letter to write under the circumstances, but lest it might not have been enough, the Catholics telegraphed to the Under Secretary, Dublin Castle, on August 25th—

> "Large Catholic excursion going Portadown to Bundoran to-morrow. Fear attack here, leaving and returning. Make proper provision, please. Committee Catholic Association."

A reply was sent by letter on the same day from Sir David Harrel which stated—

> "In reply to your telegram of this evening, I beg to inform you that the Inspector General of Constabulary has been communicated with and has wired directions to Armagh constabulary to take the necessary steps to preserve the peace."

One would have imagined that the pledge contained in that letter would have been fulfilled. He would recount to the House as briefly as possible what happened. The Catholic excursionists, in order to avoid giving any offence whatever, not only went to the station without banners or bands, which in that locality might excite disorder and opposition, but went in twos and threes and fours by different routes, In every street leading to the railway station and on the steps of the station Orangemen came up and assaulted the Catholics without the slightest provocation. There was only a single policeman present to protect the excursionists. He asked the other day what had been done by the Castle or its agents in the locality to give the special protection promised by the Under Secretary, and he was rather surprised that so candid a gentleman as the Chief Secretary for Ireland did not give a more candid reply. He asked the right hon. Gentleman what did the special protection consist in, but the right hon. Gentleman absolutely refused to answer. He asked him now to deny that no special protection was given at all. There were not more than half-a-dozen policemen in Portadown on that morning, although from previous experience the police must have known that an attack would be made on the Catholic excursion. The Orangemen of the district felt that they were masters of the situation, and they renewed the attack on the excursionists when it returned in the evening. Again he challenged the right hon. Gentleman to deny that there was no special protection on the streets of Portadown that evening. The result was that for two days afterwards the Orangemen of Portadown, feeling that they had the magistrates on their side, and that there were no police ready to protect the Catholics, continued their violent assaults on Catholics going to and returning from their work. The disturbance lasted for a few days. The Catholic minority were subjected to continued acts of violence, and they thought that even still an appeal to the Castle would produce some effect. Accordingly on the 22nd September they wrote a long letter in which they made certain suggestions as to the preservation of the peace in future. The letter said—

> "Catholics here feel that they have no one but themselves to depend on for protection, seeing that those responsible for the peace of the town, though timely warned when the Catholic excursion was being promoted both by our Committee and by bills posted on the hoarding, afforded us practically no protection."

That was a very respectful letter, and the following reply was received—

> "Sir,—I am directed by the Lord Justices to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 22nd inst., with regard to the recent disturbances in Portadown.—I am, Sir,
>
> "Your obedient servant."

The Catholics of Portadown might well be expected to give up faith in Dublin Castle after that, but they wrote again on the 8th October to the Under Secretary as follows—

> "Sir,—On behalf of the C.Y.M.S. we would urge upon your immediate attention the

prayer of our memorial of the 22nd ult. We have grounds to fear a renewal of the disturbances on the declaration of the poll on Saturday should Mr. Orr be returned. Besides the fact that a portion of the contents of our memorial was published in the last issue of our local Orange press is not calculated to add to the safety of our Catholic brethren, while the present local administration obtains."

Now I wish to direct the attention of the right hon. Gentleman to that letter. A memorial, which is practically confidential, was addressed to the Under Secretary. It was supposed to be private, and no Catholic journalist got hold of it. Yet it leaked out of Dublin Castle down to the office of the local Orange paper. An answer was duly received, which stated—

> "I am directed by the Lords Justices to acknowledge the receipt of your further letter of the 8th inst., with reference to the state of affairs at Portadown.—I am, Sir,
>
> "Your obedient servant."

The Catholics of Portadown seemed to be very hard to deprive of confidence in the Castle. Again on 8th November another respectful letter—a much more respectful letter than he would have counselled them to write—was sent, suggesting additional police and so on. And again what was the answer?

> "Dublin Castle, November, 17th, 1900.
>
> "I am directed by the Lords Justices to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 5th inst., in regard to the disturbances at Portadown on the 26th August last, and to say that the matter is receiving the due consideration of the Government."

If a matter was "receiving the due consideration of the Government" in Ireland, that was a sign that it was at the last stage that could be reached. The next letter, written by the Secretary of the association, was dated 22nd of December, and was as follows—

> "I am instructed by the Committee of the above Association to ask you what decision, if any, the Government have come to regarding the recommendation contained in their letter of 22nd September, 1900."

He had asked the right hon. the Chief Secretary the other day whether it was the fact that the last two letters had been left without an answer, and he said they were not. Further, he said he would give the matter his personal attention. Now he was informed by telegram from Portadown that the statement of the right hon. Gentleman had no foundation. Of course he did not attribute any wilful or intentional misstatement to the right hon. Gentleman, but he was compelled to believe that the statement from Portadown was correct. The last letter written by the secretary of the association was dated 26th January, when the right hon. Gentleman was in office. That letter directed attention to the correspondence which had taken place, pointing out that no answer had been received to previous communications, and stated that if the recommendation of the association were not attended to it was their intention to have the matter discussed in the House of Commons. The letter went on to say that the committee wished, in justice to the right hon. Gentleman, as he had not been in office at the period of their former communication, to give him an opportunity of redressing the grievances under which the Catholics in Portadown suffered. They had been given to understand that justice would have been done before this, had it not been for the action of local officials, who forwarded reports regarding the character of their association which were at variance with the truth. The letter concluded by saying that, if necessary, a list of members of the association would be supplied, when the right hon. Gentleman would be able to judge for himself on whose authority and behalf the committee spoke. Now, that was a somewhat pathetic letter addressed to the right hon. Gentleman—a kind of despairing appeal to his sense of justice; and he asserted that no answer, not even a bare official acknowledgment had been given to it. He did not exaggerate when he said that this correspondence revealed a state of things which was a disgrace to any Government which had for one of its objects the preservation of the peace, and enabling Catholics to live in quietness. He asked what would have been the action of the Executive if a thing like that had occurred in the south or west of Ireland, in a town like Galway or Bandon, where the Catholics were in an overwhelming majority and the Protestants in a minority? The state of things which prevailed in Portadown and a few other places in the north was so utterly strange to the experience of men in other parts of Ireland that they could hardly believe it. Supposing in the town of Galway or Bandon a Protestant society representing a minority of the population proposed to go on excursion, and asked for protection—thanks be to God, they would not need it!—but supposing they did need it, and asked for it, did anyone in his senses believe that, if necessary, the whole police force of Munster would not be drafted on to the spot? They knew what took place when a landgrabber was in difficulties. Why, not only the police but the military would be sent to his assistance. He had been on the spot and spoke from personal knowledge, and he maintained that in Portadown not only had the Catholics no confidence in the agents of the police, but in his opinion those agents did not deserve it.

The right hon. Gentleman had told the House the other day that certain persons had been arrested and prosecuted. Yes, they were; and he would give the House the story of two prosecutions. A member of the Orange Society had gone up to and struck a Catholic, admittedly without the slightest provocation, and knocked two or three of his teeth out. On the following day, whether there was a row or not he did not know, the man assaulted struck the Orangeman. The two men were prosecuted, and both were convicted. But what did the magistrates do? They sent the Catholic to gaol and took surety only for keeping the peace from the Orangeman. One would have imagined that for shame's sake they would have left the case to the resident magistrate, but the Orange magistrates crowded the bench, and he would not be speaking the truth if he did not say that they went there predetermined as to the course they would take. Again, he would not be speaking the truth if he did not say that the resident magistrate was as bad as the rest of them. He warned the right hon. Gentleman that as long as he left Mr. T. D. Gibson at Portadown he would run the risk of inducing the Catholics of that town to believe that the best thing they could do for their own protection was to do as the Orangemen did—namely, arm themselves and fire bullets at the persons who in future might attack them without provocation. He had asked the other day whether it was a fact that the Catholic chapel in Portadown had its windows broken, and the right hon. Gentleman could not deny the fact. But what did the right hon. Gentleman say in reply? These were not his replies, they were the replies he got from the local Orange officials. He should have expected the right hon. Gentleman to say, occupying the position he did, "Yes, the windows of this Catholic church were broken; it was a very detestable outrage; I deprecate such attacks, and hope they will be prevented in future."

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): I said it was a wanton and mischievous act.

MR. CLANCY said he would have expected the right hon. Gentleman would have said something to the effect that he disapproved heartily of these outrages. But what did he do? He gave an answer which amounted to a justification or rather an excuse for the outrage. He (the hon. Member) was not given to making reckless statements, or using immoderate language; but he was indignant when the right hon. Gentleman answered that not only had the windows of the Catholic church been broken, but also the windows of the Protestant church. Now, what had that to do with the case? But he would inform the right hon. Gentleman that this trumped-up excuse was an excuse three or four years old—the work, as the right hon. Gentleman himself said, of some little boys, but it was three or four years ago. And that was the act set up by the right hon. Gentleman by way of excuse for the ruinous breaking of the windows of the Catholic church in Portadown within the last few months. At that inopportune hour he would not occupy more of the time of the House, but from what he had said he was certain the House would be under the belief that he had not, up to that point, occupied their time unnecessarily. He had only one other remark to make, and that was that in his opinion no justice was at present to be had for the Catholic community in Portadown; and unless the right hon. Gentleman that night or on some other occasion took the opportunity of washing his hands clear of this foul transaction—because he could call it nothing else—he would have taught a lesson to the people of other parts of Ireland the fruits of which he would live to regret.

MR. LUNDON (Limerick, E.) said he desired to associate himself with his hon. and gallant friend the Member for West Clare. He had never been able to love the Irish Constabulary, but at the same time he believed every man had a right to fair play. He wished to know from the Chief Secretary whether Mr. Irwin, who was concerned in discharging a sergeant and constable in Clare for having put a document into a man's pocket, was the Mr. Irwin who was a witness at *The Times* Commission, before which Mr. Parnell and his compatriots were impeached and came out with flying colours? He also wished to know whether he was the man who was sent into the gaol at Cork before the trial of Twiss? Why were not the two policemen who were dismissed put on trial in the ordinary way? It seemed to him that there was something mysterious and dangerous behind the action of the Executive. He would not interfere if all the policemen in Ireland were chasing each other into the Irish Sea, but at the same time he hoped that the case to which he referred would be investigated, and that the right horse would be saddled. With reference to the disposition of the money under discussion, Ireland had no interest, except in so far as she had to pay a proportion of it, which it was acknowledged by experts was too great. They in Ireland had had experience of the British Government. They remembered the famous telegram sent to Youghal, "Do not hesitate to shoot": and also the men who were shot down in the square of Mitchelstown.

MR. REDDY (King's County, Birr) said he was glad to have an opportunity of discussing the manner in which justice was administered in Ireland. He would state very briefly the facts of one particular case which could not be contradicted. One evening in June last a tramp went to the workhouse in Birr, and asked to see the master. He was refused admission, and the master stabbed the tramp with a knife. His life was in danger for several weeks. Ultimately the master was brought before the magistrates, and he being an Orangeman, the Catholic magistrates, with a sense of decency and propriety, declined to attend. What was the result? Lord Ross and his satellites attended, and the accused man, Benjamin Goode, who had been an emergency man for Lord Ross, was admitted to bail. The matter was reported to the Local Government Board, and he himself asked a question about it in the House, but the Chief Secretary gave him a snappish answer. They demanded an inquiry, and applied for the informations to the Clerk of the Petty Sessions, and he refused them. They were then told by the Local Government Board that, not having the informations before them, they could not grant an inquiry. Why did not the Local Government Board take action? If Benjamin Goode were a Catholic, would Lord Ross and his satellites let him out on bail? That was how the law was administered in Ireland. He was prepared to stand by his statements, and defied contradiction. He held the Chief Secretary responsible. They were told to admire the constitution in Ireland, but there was no such thing. He had little confidence in the British Constitution anywhere, but when a man submitted himself to be governed by it, he ought to be governed fairly and impartially. They had heard about Portadown, but there were Portadowns all over Ireland.

MR. FIELD called attention to the fact that the Civil Service Estimates of £142,000 included expenditure in connection with the Board of Trade, and asked why the Irish people should be asked to contribute to the payment of that expenditure, seeing that there was no branch of the Board of Trade in Ireland. There was no means of knowing, in regard to Ireland, statistics of imports and exports which would prove how trade was going on in that country. On the previous day he asked the President of the Board of Trade whether there was any intention to start a department of the Board of Trade, and he replied in the negative. He wished now to ask the Chief Secretary why the Irish people were asked to help to support the Board of Trade, which had no representative in Ireland? Referring to the item in the Estimates for the geological survey, he said that, while the survey in England was completed many years ago, it had not yet been commenced in Ireland. What was more important was that the Education Department at Kensington had not yet begun the soil survey. [Laughter.] Hon. Members who laughed were only revealing their ignorance. If they had any acquaintance with the manner in which this matter was attended to in Germany, France, and the United States, hon. Members opposite who laughed would know that this was a vitally important subject. The reason why England was obliged to import so much food was that agriculture was being neglected. If the food supplies of England were shut off for six weeks the people would be starved out. The harbours around the Irish coast were monuments of the incompetence of the Board of Works. These harbours showed that the Board of Works had in their employ the worst engineers in the country. With regard to the rates on Government property, he said he was informed by a gentleman of high official authority that the rates in Dublin were not one-fifth of the value of the property. That was a public scandal. What were the railways in Ireland? They were the worst railways in the world. They had the highest rates and less facilities than existed in any part of the world. They had no cheap trains for working men. In his opinion the railways of Ireland as at present constituted were more dangerous to Irish prosperity than the Irish landlords. The landlords' rents were liable to revision at certain terms, but the railways could and did charge what they liked. He knew how they mangled and maimed the animals they carried, and the owners could get no satisfaction whatever. The railways were a sort of commercial Dublin Castle, and there was not the slightest chance of getting any kind of justice from them. His experience of the Local Government Board in Ireland was that it was a kind of Irish House of Lords. There were three or four non-elected and irresponsible individuals on it whose apparent aim was to make local government as expensive and unpopular as possible. He protested against the system of valuation that prevailed in Ireland at the present time. The five county boroughs in Ireland were to be revalued, and, judging by what had taken place in Belfast, there would be an enormous increase in taxation, because by increasing the rating the Imperial taxation would also be largely increased. If excessive taxation were drawn from a country, that country was bound to be impoverished. That was largely the reason Ireland was so poor, and if the present system of revaluation continued, the effects would be even greater than at present. He therefore appealed to the hon. Members for Belfast to support him in his endeavour to obtain the transplantation of the English system in Ireland. From every piece of Irish legislation the heart was generally left out. That had been the case with the Local Government Act, as the taxation powers were taken out of the hands of the local people. With regard to the reformatory and industrial schools, since the recent action of the Lord Lieutenant the number of children sent to these institutions had enormously decreased. Industrial schools tended to prevent the manufacture of criminals, and since the establishment of these schools there had been a notable diminution in the amount of juvenile crime. The Lord Lieutenant's Order, however, had made it very doubtful whether many of the institutions could remain open much longer, and he hoped that some arrangement would be come to under which the schools could go on as formerly. The increase of lunacy was another serious matter in Ireland which the Government should take into consideration.

MR. WYNDHAM: It is impossible for me to refer to all the subjects which the hon. Member has just mentioned, but one of them was the question of industrial schools. I am quite alive to the importance of that matter; in fact, I think it so serious a matter that the number of children in industrial and reformatory schools in Ireland far exceeds proportionately the numbers in such schools in England and Scotland that I should show a want of appreciation of its gravity if I attempted to discuss it at this hour of the morning. The hon. Member referred to the railways, and seemed to suggest that as we have courts to fix fair rents we should have courts to regulate railway fares. Fair rents are bad enough, but fair fares would be infinitely worse. The hon. Member ran his fingers through some notes in the scale with reference to the Local Government Board, but as we are to have, as he has told us, a "concerted piece" to-morrow on that subject, I may leave it for the present. In regard to the arrest and subsequent discharge of Ryan, and the dismissal from the police force of a sergeant and constable, the question put to me was why, if we did not prosecute Ryan, we did not prosecute these two officers of the constabulary. The evidence against Ryan, the constituent of the hon. and gallant Member, was not of a character to justify a prosecution for posting seditious notices, and therefore, after being remanded for three weeks, he was discharged. The two policemen were not prosecuted because the evidence against them did not warrant a prosecution, and yet I felt that their evidence was so unsatisfactory that those officers could not be retained in the force with any advantage to the public. I have nothing more to say on that point, except that I believe the course taken was the right one under the circumstances. It is very difficult to follow the large number of speeches which have been made, but I now come to the speech of the hon. Member for Dublin County, North. He made a speech addressed somewhat pointedly towards myself. The subject matter of his speech was a regrettable incident which took place in August last at Portadown, before I was Chief Secretary; but I am prepared to defend the course which the Government took upon that occasion. The hon. Member opposite said that he knows more about Portadown than I do. Perhaps he does, but I know that it is in the borderland between Orange Ireland and Nationalist Ireland, and there the Orange element is in a large majority. There was a Catholic excursion, and they went off with great public display.

MR. CLANCY said he could not allow a statement like that to pass unchallenged, for they did not go with great display.

MR. WYNDHAM: I am not making any point against them on that account, for I think it is a subject of great regret that these conflicts should go on, but I have a very clear view as to the duty of the Government in this matter. The Government having received notice that there would be an excursion which would be interfered with, special orders were sent from Dublin Castle that protection was to be given and that adequate police arrangements were to be made. In the opinion of the Government, adequate arrangements were not made, and, as I have already told the House, this remissness has been censured, and every precaution will be taken to see that such an incident does not occur again in the future.

MR. CLANCY said he wished----

MR. WYNDHAM: I object to giving way to the hon. Member's interruptions.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member must not interrupt unless he has a point of order to raise. He has no right to interrupt the right hon. Gentleman unless the right hon Gentleman chooses to give way to him.

MR. CLANCY: But the right hon. Gentleman has given way.

*MR. SPEAKER: No; the right hon. Gentleman said he refused to give way.

MR. WYNDHAM: This transaction is not a matter of much moment, but the attitude of the Government is that protection shall be given to one side or the other and that the public peace shall be preserved. What happened on a particular occasion in last August was surely trivial and obsolete in comparison with the similar incidents which are happening every day. On more recent occasions adequate protection has been given, and the peace has been preserved. I do not think that either Orangemen or Catholics have any cause to complain. I hope that I have now satisfied the hon. Member that I am fully alive to the importance of these difficulties which do arise in such cases as the disturbance at Portadown, and I may add that the Government is determined to give impartial protection to the Orangemen on the one side and to the Nationalists on the other. If I have omitted any other points which have been raised I will undertake to deal with them more fully when they are raised on the Irish Estimates.

MR. DOOGAN alluded to the occasion of a riot at Stewartstown, where he himself was burned in effigy. Under those circumstances, how could the Chief Secretary say that the Government had taken proper steps to prevent these occurrences? He had always done his level best on all occasions to allay any bitterness in sectarian feelings. In regard to the disorderly proceedings in the town of Dungannon, the Nationalists had a torchlight procession, and he himself told them to go home and avoid rioting. The police took the names of five rioters on each side. They were brought before the magistrates, and the cases were adjourned for a month, and subsequently for another month. Dungannon was proclaimed for seven days. The result ultimately was that no one was convicted. How could the right hon Gentleman, who was responsible for the peace of Ireland, defend such action? If the right hon. Gentleman desired to have peace in Ireland he would have to put down partisanship on the magisterial bench. He could give several other instances. They knew that the Orangemen were shielded, that the law was not fairly administered, that the bench was packed, and that the scales of justice were weighted. At a public meeting in Dungannon five policemen were injured, and the ratepayers, who had nothing to do with it, had to pay the policemen enormous sums as compensation. He had been asked by the people of Dungannon to bring the matter before the House of Commons, and to ask to have an inquiry into all the circumstances. He hoped that would be done, and that an example would be made. If the offences of one party were not condoned by the local magistrates and by Dublin Castle, Ulster would soon be the most peaceful province in Ireland.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place and claimed to move that the question be now put.

MR. DOOGAN: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, this is an important matter, which concerns the peaceful inhabitants of Dungannon, and I would ask the representative of law and order in Ireland——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is not raising any point of order.

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided:—Ayes, 130; Noes 51. (Division List No. 104.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (Leeds
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Col. Henry
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow
Cranborne, Viscount
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chatham
Dickson, Charles Scott
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Maj Evans (T'r H'lets)
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Sir E W. (B'ry S Edm'nds
Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hamilton, Rt. Hn Lord G (Mid'x
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'd·
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hay, Hn. Claude George
Heath, J. (Staffords., N. W.)
Hobhouse, Henry Somerset E
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Howard, Capt J. Kent, Faversh
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kenyon, Hn. Geo T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop
Knowles, Lees
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Macdona, John Cumming
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Melville, Beresford Valentine

Middlemore, John Throgmor'n
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morley, Charles (Breconshire
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Mowbray, Sir Robt. Gray C.
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Ridley, Hon. M. W (Stalybridge
Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green
Rigg, Richard
Ritchie, Rt. Hon Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith, H. C (North'mb Tynesde
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whiteley, H (Ashton und. Lyne
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
Ambrose, Robert
Asher, Alexander
Boyle, James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Delany, William
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Elibank, Master of
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Gilhooly, James
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Chas. Seale-
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Joyce, Michael
Leamy, Edmund
Lundon, W.
Macdonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Md
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Sullivan, Donal
Weir, James Galloway

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

Question put accordingly, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

The House divided:—Ayes, 140; Noes, 42. (Division List No. 105.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Asher, Alexander
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Caldwell, James
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Dickson, Charles Scott
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elibank, Master of
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Godson, Sir Augustus Fred'rick
Gordon, Maj Evans (T'r H'mlets
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Goschen, Hn. George Joachim
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Sir E. W. Bry. S Edmnds
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (Mid'x
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'rd
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Chas. Seale-
Heath, James (Staffords N. W.
Hobhouse, Henry Somerset, E.
Hope, J. F (Sheffield, Brightside
Howard, Capt. J. (Kent, Fav.
Johnston, Wm. (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Kenyon, Hn. G. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop
Knowles, Lees
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Bristol, S.)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman

Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmo'th)
Macdona, John Cumming
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, John Throgmortn
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Edw. J. C. (Devonport)
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Priestley, Arthur
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reckitt, Harold James
Reid, James (Greenock)
Ridley, Hon. M. W (Stalybridge
Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green
Rigg, Richard
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, H. (Hackney)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith, H. C (N'rthmb. Tyneside
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Wason, John C. (Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton und Lyne
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Ambrose, Robert
Boyle, James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Delany, William
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Gilhooly, James
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hayden, John Patrick
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Joyce, Michael
Leamy, Edmund
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Md
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Sullivan, Donal

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

WAYS AND MEANS [23RD MARCH].

Resolutions reported:—

1. "That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for the Service of the years ending on the 31st day of March, 1900 and 1901, the sum of £5,229,355 2s. be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom."

2. "That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for the Service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1902, the sum of £44,721,500 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.

Resolutions agreed to; Bill ordered to be brought in by the Chairman of Ways and Means, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Austen Chamberlain.

CONSOLIDATED FUND (No. 1 BILL).

"To apply certain sums out of the Consolidated Fund to the Service of the years ending on the 31st day of March, one thousand nine hundred, one thousand nine hundred and one, and one thousand nine hundred and two," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time this day.

CHINA—ANGLO-RUSSIAN DISPUTE AT TIENTSIN.

On the motion for adjournment——

MR. KEIR HARDIE: Before the question is put, may I ask the Leader of the House whether he has any information as to the statement made last night that three British soldiers were killed or wounded at Tientsin, and whether or not the peace has been disturbed in that place.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir; I have no information.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: Send for Lord Lansdowne.

Adjourned at a quarter before Five of the clock.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 26th March, 1901.

LORD HENLEY.

Ordered and Directed, by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled, That a Certificate be sent by the Clerk of the Parliaments to the Clerk of the Crown in Ireland, stating that the Lord Chancellor of the United Kingdom has reported to the House of Lords that the right of the Lord Henley to vote at the elections of representative Peers for Ireland has been established to the satisfaction of him the said Lord Chancellor; and that the House of Lords has ordered such Report to be sent to the said Clerk of the Crown in Ireland; and it is hereby also Ordered, That the said Report of the said Lord Chancellor be sent to the Clerk of the Crown in Ireland.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

OAKHAM WATER BILL [H.L.].

Reported with Amendments.

MANCHESTER (MARKET STREET AREA) IMPROVEMENTS BILL [H.L.].

Committed; the Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

MINES AND QUARRIES.

Reports of His Majesty's Inspectors for 1900.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

Annual Reports of Proceedings under the Diseases of Animals Acts, the Markets and Fairs (Weighing of Cattle) Acts, etc., for the year 1900.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

LAND TRANSFER ACT, 1897.

Order in Council, dated the 9th of March, 1901, further postponing the operation of the Order in Council of 18th July, 1898, under the Act as regards the City of London until the 1st January, 1902.

SPRING ASSIZES ACT, 1879.

Orders in Council, dated 9th of March, 1901, relating to—

I. Spring Assize County, No. 2;
II. Spring Assize County, No. 3.

GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL (RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE).

Returns of receipts and expenditure of the General Medical Council, and of the Branch Councils; also of receipts and expenditure of the Dental Registration Fund, for the year ended 31st December, 1900.

INEBRIATE ACTS, 1879 TO 1899 (RULES FOR RETREATS).

Rules for Retreats licensed under the Inebriate Acts, 1879 to 1899, made by The Secretary of State for the Home Department. (In substitution for Rules presented the 6th December, 1900.)

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

PETITIONS.

INTOXICATING LIQUORS.

Petitions against the sale of, on Sundays; of meetings at Reigate; Redhill; Holt; Huntingdon; and Esher; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

LICENSING SESSIONS BILL [H.L.].

HABITUAL DRUNKARDS BILL [H.L.].

Petition in favour of; of Members of Manchester, Salford, and District Temperance Union; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

LICENSING LAW AMENDMENT BILL [H.L.].

A Bill to amend the law with respect to the grant of licences for the sale of intoxicating liquors and to provide for the reduction of licences and for the registration of clubs. Was presented by the Lord Windsor; read 1^a; and to be printed. (No. 28.)

VOLUNTEERS AND RIFLE RANGES.

EARL SPENCER: My Lords, I have given the noble Lord the Under Secretary for War notice of a question on a matter which is of the greatest importance to all forces of His Majesty in this kingdom. The question of rifle ranges has been before your Lordships on several occasions. I think I may be allowed some claim to speak upon it, inasmuch as I had the honour of being one of the original founders of the National Rifle Association, which has done more than anything else to promote good rifle shooting indirectly in the Army, and directly among the Volunteers. I also had the honour to be on the War Office Committee which selected what was, I believe, for a great many years, one of the best rifles put into the hands of our soldiers, the Martini-Henry; and in the ardour of my youth I was able to find for the Volunteers, within six miles of the centre of London, the most splendid range that any country in the world has. Not only is it of importance that our soldiers should be trained in rifle firing, but the prospect of rifle shooting is one of the inducements which lead men to join the Volunteer corps. It is hardly necessary to dwell on the necessity for training in rifle shooting. Only a few days ago the noble Earl the Commander-in-Chief, in a letter on this subject, expatiated on the great importance he attached to skill in rifle shooting among all who take the field against the enemy.

I hold the view that there is no more exciting and entertaining recreation than rifle shooting, and I should like to see it become our national recreation, just as archery was in olden days. I have, at different periods of my life, enjoyed runs with the foxhounds, deerstalking, and salmon fishing, and also rifle shooting, having once run very close to the winner of the Queen's Prize, and, to my mind, none of the sports I have named can surpass a good rifle match, while its utility cannot be exaggerated. The noble Marquess at the head of the Government—who I am sorry to see is not in his place to-night—at a recent political meeting greatly encouraged rifle clubs. But, although rifle clubs for those who live in country villages may be very desirable, it is very difficult to find a safe place for shooting. I certainly wish to see rifle clubs established, but I should very much prefer the rifle shooting to be connected with the Volunteer corps. It is a truism that unless you can get rifle ranges it is impossible to cultivate rifle shooting. How do we stand now with regard to rifle ranges? Our country is not well adapted for rifle ranges, as is South Africa or a mountainous country like Switzerland. Many difficulties have arisen, first from the greater range of the rifle, and secondly from the country becoming more populated, and I am sorry to say that numbers of ranges throughout the country have had to be shut. How, then, are you to find ranges? They can only be found at great cost, and with great difficulty. Is it to be expected that the Volunteers themselves can find them? I have heard it said that they ought to provide them out of the capitation grant made by the Government. I venture to say that you can hardly expect Volunteer corps, with the increased expenses that are very properly put upon them for greater drill, etc., to find the money necessary to provide ranges. I should like to see that duty assumed by the Government. Possibly they may not be able to find the whole of the money, but they could provide a great deal more for this purpose than at present. Difficulties arise in every part of the country; in some parts, where there is a large population and land is perfectly flat, the difficulty is greater. There is less difficulty, probably, in the hilly parts of the country. But even there, owing to the requirements made for clearing the ground behind the ranges, it is exceedingly difficult to find ranges.

Take, for a moment, the case of London. London has a magnificent body of Volunteers—the most efficient Volunteers that can possibly be found. We know that from the splendid specimens they contributed to that distinguished corps, the C.I.V. The London corps are put in a difficult position, for all the ranges within easy reach of the Metropolis have been shut. I would urge the necessity for the range being within easy distance of the headquarters of the Volunteer corps. This is absolutely essential if good musketry practice is to be carried on. I heard this morning from a musketry instructor to one of the most important Volunteer regiments in London—the Queen's Westminster—of the difficulties which his distinguished regiment experience. He said they nearly always had to go to Bisley for their shooting. They had a short range on Wormwood Scrubbs, but here they cannot go through the whole musketry training of the regiment. They have to go to Bisley, and they have to do so under very great difficulties, for the trains are badly arranged. It is a serious difficulty in the way of rifle practice if a Volunteer leaving London at half-past two o'clock cannot, after shooting at Bisley, reach home again until nine in the evening. Moreover, when they get there they very often find that so many regiments from different parts of the country are in possession that they cannot obtain a target to shoot at. The result is, the Volunteers are justly dissatisfied.

I wish particularly to call attention to the corps belonging to public schools, in which I take special interest. I will first refer to the case of Winchester, about which there has been some correspondence lately in the papers. Winchester School has a large corps, and there are, in addition, about 500 Volunteers in the town. There are also situated at Winchester the depôts of two very distinguished regiments, and I understand that they are being considerably enlarged, and that more men will be accommodated there. What has happened in the case of Winchester? Seven years ago they had a range, which was closed to firing with full charges. For about two years they continued to use this range with reduced charges, but for the past five years they have had no rifle range at all, notwithstanding that there is this large number of Volunteers in the town. The result is that the boys at Winchester School do their rifle shooting on the Morris-Tube plan, and forty boys every year go to Bisley and have one day's shooting. This is a most unsatisfactory state of things. I would ask the noble and gallant Lord the Under Secretary to explain how the difficulty at Winchester occurred. In 1897 Dr. Fearon, who was then headmaster, arranged for a rifle range. He did it on his own account, and came to terms with the proprietors of the land. He was ready to lay it out as a private range for the school, and he communicated with the War Office, who put him off his proposal and said they would undertake the construction of the range themselves. A long delay occurred, and Dr. Fearon was then asked what he would contribute towards the range, and he promised to give the liberal subscription of £500. Directly the War Office came in, the private individuals who possessed the land refused, unless a very high sum was paid, to let the War Office have it. For four years nothing has been done, and this large body of Volunteers, as well as the members of the school corps, have been entirely deprived of rifle shooting in consequence. Perhaps the noble Lord can tell us why it was that the Headmaster was not allowed to carry out his private arrangement. It would be interesting to know, also, whether the noble Lord could lay on the Table of the House the correspondence which took place between Dr. Fearon and the War Office on this subject.

At Rugby there is also a great difficulty in obtaining a range. The only long range is two miles from the town and from the school, and it is practically of very little use. When the range is such a distance from the school you cannot expect the boys to take up rifle shooting, because it occupies so much of their time getting to and from the range. It is a great misfortune that this fine body of young fellows who desire to be Volunteers cannot practice rifle shooting with convenience. Harrow is in the same position. There is a range at least two miles from the school, but the shooting is frequently delayed for half an hour or three-quarters, owing to the existence of a road behind the range. I wish to ask the noble and gallant Lord whether the War Office will assist these public schools in getting ranges. We heard from the noble Marquess the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs on two occasions when he was Secretary for War, that considerable sums of money had been taken to give grants towards these ranges. I think on one occasion we heard that the sum was £40,000, that £35,000 had been allotted, and that there remained

£5,000 available. Later on, we heard that there were several thousand pounds more available for ranges. I should be glad if my noble friend the Under Secretary would say how far the Government have advanced in fulfilment of the promise made by the noble Marquess of assistance towards providing ranges out of these sums.

There is another point to which I desire to draw attention. My noble friend behind me, Lord Tweedmouth, who, as your Lordships know, is a very expert rifleman and has taken great interest in all matters concerned with rifle shooting, has frequently referred to the question of short ranges. He said—I think with great truth—that if you could not get a long range, it was very important and desirable to have a short range. At short ranges men could be taught the pulling of the trigger and the handling of the rifle, and if they were made to excel at short ranges they would very soon be able to fire at long ranges. I should like to know whether the Government are in favour of assisting corps to provide short ranges where long distance ranges cannot be procured within easy distance of headquarters. Perhaps the noble Lord will also tell us what the Government and the War Office think of the specially contrived covered ranges erected on Wormwood Scrubbs, and whether any objections have been taken to them by Volunteers. So far as I can judge, the ranges on Wormwood Scrubbs are not very attractive. Those who shoot at them are not amused. They get tired and bored by having to shoot through what sailors would call a porthole. It is certainly not as good as a short range in the open, but where you cannot get either short or long ranges in the open these ranges may be of considerable value. It all depends, of course, on expert opinion. They have one advantage over Morris-Tube shooting—namely, that the riflemen fire with the full charge. Morris-Tube practice is very often elaborately done, but there is a great difference when not firing with the full charge. I am afraid I have unduly detained your Lordships, and I conclude by asking the question standing in my name—namely, What the Government have done to assist Volunteers to obtain rifle ranges; whether the War Office approve of short ranges being obtained when long distance ranges are not obtainable within easy reach of the headquarters of a corps; and whether the Government will assist the creation of such short ranges by grants of money.

*THE MARQUESS OF GRANBY: My Lords, I should like to touch very briefly upon one or two of the points raised in the speech of the noble Earl. The subject of rifle ranges is one of the very greatest importance. I am thoroughly in accord with what the noble Lord said with regard to civilian rifle clubs, and I agree with him that the claims of the Regular and Auxiliary forces should be first considered. These civilian rifle clubs, as advocated at the present time, will, I think, require the closest attention on the part of His Majesty's Government and the military authorities, because if they are to be unduly exploited without regard to their effect on recruiting, they may become a serious injury instead of the boon it is thought they will be. Of course I speak with all deference in view of the opinions expressed by the noble Marquess the Prime Minister and the noble and gallant Earl the Commander-in-Chief. We have been in an emotional frame of mind during the past year on military matters, and I hardly think the noble and gallant Earl the Commander-in-Chief can have fully considered the effect which some of the sentences in his letter can be construed to have. Recruiting for the Regular and Reserve forces has reached almost its highest point, and it does not require a pot of Homocea to place one's finger on the weak spot in Mr. Brodrick's Army scheme. The formation of civilian rifle clubs would probably still further diminish recruiting for Volunteer corps, especially in the country districts.

It is necessary that a man who is to be of real value in the defensive force of this country must have some knowledge of discipline and obedience, but the inculcation of discipline and obedience is not suggested in connection with civilian rifle clubs; and I consider that it would be better to improve the facilities for shooting and the provision of ranges for the Regular and Auxiliary forces than to plunge into some wild scheme for establishing rifle clubs, the value of which has yet to be ascertained. I would suggest to the Under Secretary that he might consider the facilities for transport to and from existing ranges, which are at present inadequate. I will give the House a typical case. I know a Volunteer company in the country which consists of between ninety and one hundred men. They are all poor men, and cannot afford to pay large sums for transport to the range. Most of them live at an average distance of from five to six miles from the range, and some even nine miles. It costs between £40 and £60 a year out of their own pockets to get the carriage transport to and from the range. A regulation was made, the year before last, I think, by which an additional grant was given of six shillings per man per annum towards the expense of getting to and from the range. That grant was applied for in this case, but the War Office refused to make the allowance on the ground that the headquarters of the corps were within two miles of the range. The result of this remarkable decision on the part of the War Office is that this company, some fourteen members of which went out to South Africa, is on the verge of extinction. This is certainly not the way to encourage Volunteers, and it is, in my opinion, a penny wise and pound foolish policy. I would urge the noble and gallant Lord the Under Secretary to, if possible, do away with this grievance, which, though it may sound a minor grievance, is one likely to prove of considerable disadvantage to Volunteering throughout the country.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Lord RAGLAN): My Lords, I am sure I need not say that I fully appreciate the enormous importance of efficient musketry. I have myself been a musketry instructor, and for many years a member of the council of the Militia Rifle Association, and in my humble way I have endeavoured to further the interests of rifle shooting. The supplying of ranges has for many years been most difficult, and the difficulty has been increased by the increasing range of the rifle, which has necessitated, as the noble Lord pointed out, the closing of so many ranges in different parts of the country. The question of ranges was brought to a head by the introduction of the Lee-Metford rifle, and in 1899 a large sum of money was allotted for the provision of ranges in central positions where the Regular forces and the Militia could be trained in musketry, and where it was also hoped large numbers of Volunteers might also be trained. When these ranges were in course of construction the question was raised as to the formation of local ranges to suit the convenience of Volunteer corps. It was found that local ranges added much to the interest, as well as to the convenience, of the Volunteers, and a certain sum of money was subsequently allotted to assist Volunteers in providing themselves with local ranges. The difficulty of allotting the money has been very great. In the first place it was necessary that it should be allotted on a system which would apply as equally as possible to all parts of the country.

The present position is, briefly, this, About £75,000 has been allotted, and when the ranges are completed I believe the requirements of the corps will have been met. Every headquarters of every corps will have within reasonable reach an efficient range, and in a great number of cases detailed companies have been provided for. With regard to London, very great difficulty has been experienced. A scheme was taken up by the County Council on behalf of the London Volunteers for the creation of a large range on Lea Marshes. When the scheme was practically agreed to, it was discovered that the land had been scheduled by a waterworks company for the construction of reservoirs, and the scheme had to be dropped. Subsequently the County Council put forward a new scheme on similar lines for the formation of ranges for the Volunteers at another place. The scheme went forward, and the War Office was prepared to find half of the money for the purchase of the land and the fitting up of the range. We had every reason to believe that the scheme would go forward, but at the last moment the commanding officers of the Volunteers in London held a meeting and decided that they would have nothing whatever to do with any scheme connected with the County Council. It was not a question as to whether they had to pay much or little towards the ranges. The decision was come to on principle, and it put a stop to the second scheme. At the present moment there is no other scheme in prospect. I do not think that the War Office can fairly be blamed in this matter. We had every reason to suppose that this second scheme would be carried through satisfactorily, and the decision of the commanding officers came as a great surprise to us. We think that it is most important to obtain, as far as possible, the assistance of local bodies, because, as your Lordships are aware, the moment the War Office attempt to act as a principal in these transactions the local authorities raise difficulties as to rights-of-way, landowners increase their demands, and the question of price assumes gigantic proportions. Frequently twenty, thirty, or more per cent. over the valuation is asked, and even when arbitration or compulsion is invoked, the expense becomes exceedingly great. I am told that in Scotland it is a matter of course that fifty per cent. is added to the valuation where it is a case of compulsory purchase.

We thoroughly agree with the noble Earl that as short ranges are better than gallery ranges, so long ranges are better than short ranges. The position the War Office has taken up in this matter is that it will not assist pecuniarily in the provision of short ranges unless it is clearly shown that in the opinion of the general commanding the district there is not a long range within a reasonable distance, and no long range can possibly be provided. In that case the War Office would be prepared to assist in making short ranges. There are several reasons why we would not propose to assist indiscriminately short ranges. The first, of course, is the expense. There is a limit even to the purse of this country, and no doubt if you said you were prepared to assist in the provision of short ranges indiscriminately you would receive an enormous number of applications. If you only had a few hundred, and they cost one thousand or two thousand pounds to fit up, you would spend an enormous sum of money. Moreover, if you encourage short ranges you discourage long ranges. If men had short ranges within a short distance of their doors, they would probably practise on them, instead of going two or three miles to where there is a long range. Those of your Lordships who take an interest in rifle-shooting are aware that if men confine their attention entirely to short ranges, the instruction they receive will be far inferior to that which can be obtained at long ranges. You can teach men on short ranges to aim, to pull the trigger, to stand the recoil, and so on, but you cannot teach them to shoot under varying climatic conditions. This they would learn at long ranges. Again, it is extremely difficult on short ranges to do those collective practices which are so enormously important in teaching men steadiness on parade, and also fire discipline.

Most of the public school corps, I believe, use the ranges of the Volunteer battalions to which they are affiliated, and therefore they will benefit to that extent from the money which has been allocated to assist various corps. I believe the Eton Volunteer corps, in which distinguished corps I had the honour of serving as a full private, is the only corps which is not a cadet corps; and hitherto we have never spent anything on ranges for cadet corps pure and simple. The whole question of the position of cadet corps, including range accommodation, is under consideration. The noble Earl alluded to the case of the Winchester range, and quoted statements that have appeared in the press which are somewhat misleading. The history of the case is, briefly, as follows: In 1897 Dr. Fearon (the Headmaster of Winchester) offered to construct a range at his own expense. He applied for permission, and was told that the War Office intended to lay one out themselves. He pointed out that the school and city corps had been two years without a range, and offered to lay out a range in whatever way the War Office might direct, on the understanding that the War Office would take it over. An inquiry was held, and it was decided that the War Office should undertake the construction of the range. Dr. Fearon then stated that the school would contribute handsomely. The cost was estimated at £20,000, and Dr. Fearon proposed a contribution—his idea of a handsome contribution is not the same as ours—which turned out to be £500. As he had proposed originally to lay out the range himself, £500 was certainly not a large sum to offer. The general officer commanding the district

Lord Raglan.

was asked to detail the plans, but difficulties arose with regard to certain owners and occupiers of land, who put up the value of the land to an enormous sum, which came to rather more than double the valuation of the War Office valuers. The matter was then dropped, as ranges had been constructed on Salisbury Plain, and at other places within reasonable distance of Winchester. The noble Earl asked whether I would lay the Papers in connection with this case on the Table of your Lordships' House. The correspondence is very large, and I hope a *précis* will meet the views of the noble Lord.

The safety range constructed on Wormwood Scrubbs has, I believe, been a complete success as regards safety. The original scheme was not quite successful, but some additional money was spent, and I believe the range is now thoroughly safe. The amount actually spent on it was a little over £6,200, or rather more than £200 a target; but I am afraid I am not in a position to say that any similar range can be constructed for the same amount —in consequence of the increase in the price of building materials, among other reasons. As to the range used by the boys at Harrow, it is, unfortunately, a fact that it has to be constantly closed in consequence of its being interfered with by a road on which vehicles travel. I regret to say that that is not the only range which has been closed for a similar reason. Even the range on Salisbury Plain is embarrassed by rights of way and other rights, and the shooting has to be stopped sometimes for hours. With regard to civilian rifle clubs, no doubt there is some chance of their interfering with recruiting for the Volunteers, but I may tell the noble Marquess below the gangway that this is not the opinion of all Volunteer officers. Opinions are divided upon it, and I think that if such clubs are carefully watched in their formation, and if no clubs receive assistance that are not affiliated to the National Rifle Association, no harm will ensue in the long run to the Volunteers. As to the refusal of travelling allowances to the particular corps referred to by my noble friend the noble Marquess, if he will send me the Papers I shall be happy to make inquiries.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: My Lords, we have no reason to be dissatisfied with the sympathetic way in which the noble Lord has answered this question. It was only natural, with his experience of shooting and musketry instruction, that he should thoroughly realise the immense importance of the subject. At the same time, I am inclined to be a little disappointed at not hearing from him that the Government are prepared to take further steps in the direction of assisting corps to provide ranges. The noble Lord said that £75,000 had been allotted in aid of local ranges, and that he thought that when that sum had been fully spent, all the requirements would have been satisfied. I should have liked to have some statistics showing exactly what was proposed. I confess that the noble Lord the Under Secretary takes an optimistic view if he thinks the money already allotted for local ranges will satisfy the requirements of rifle Volunteers throughout the country. The noble Lord referred to the construction of ranges on Salisbury Plain and elsewhere. I assume those ranges are largely for the regular forces.

LORD RAGLAN: I think I said so.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: Therefore, they do not meet the question of supplying ranges for Volunteers. The situation we are in is this—our troops, both Regular and Auxiliary, have been armed at considerable expense with an excellent weapon with a very great range, and any defect in shooting rests not with the weapon but with the person who uses it. You have a small proportion of men who are excellent shots, but the average soldier and the average Volunteer is, as a rule, a very indifferent shot, and the value of having a weapon that will kill at 2,500 yards or 3,000 yards is largely destroyed. To pick off a man at a thousand yards is a difficult thing, even for a good shot. The variation of a 150th part of an inch on your backsight means a drop or rise of ten inches in a thousand yards, and it is not surprising, therefore, to find that the ordinary soldier when he tries to pick off the enemy at what he thinks is a thousand yards, does not succeed. When we talk about the necessity of training our soldiers and Volunteers to shoot at long ranges, we are, to a large extent, aiming at what is not very useful. It is by no means an easy thing to train a man to shoot at long ranges. He should rather be trained to shoot straight and well at what can be described as an effective range. So great an authority as Colonel Henderson puts that at 450 yards. In training the soldier up to that range a great deal can be done by the use of short ranges, which could be constructed at comparatively small cost.

The noble Lord did not express himself as warmly with regard to short ranges as I should have liked. I know that soldiers hate them. I admit that it is an extremely dull thing to shoot in these gallery or protected ranges, but I maintain that you can become a very good shot at a moderate distance by short range practice. There should be such ranges within easy distance of the headquarters of every regiment and Volunteer corps throughout the kingdom, and I would like to see efficiency certificates granted to Volunteers for good practice at them. Only last year a change was made. Before then Volunteers could gain their certificate for efficiency at the shorter ranges. I go a step further, and say that you should train your men standing up. At present any position is allowed, even at 200 yards. I know it is said that in actual warfare you do all your firing lying down or with a rest of some sort. But if a man is a good shot standing, he will be a better shot lying down. I do not know what was the result of the Commission which was sent to Switzerland last year to inquire into the system of ranges in that country. The Swiss and the Belgians shine among rifle shots on the Continent, and yet their ranges are invariably short ranges. I think there are 2,700 ranges in Switzerland under Government control, and of those there are over 62 per cent. under 400 yards The same thing obtains in Belgium ; and, whilst it is perfectly true, as the noble and gallant Lord the Commander-in-Chief said the other day, that you find an immense number of ranges scattered about the Boer farms in South Africa. almost all those ranges are comparatively short ranges. The Boer is not trained to shoot at long distances, and the most successful Boer shooting is found at comparatively short ranges.

The difficulty of providing protected ranges in towns is not so great as might be expected. In Birmingham the gun manufacturers have covered ranges on the house-tops, which are no nuisance and afford good opportunities for trying rifles and guns at distances of fifty yards; and as the garrison ranges at St. Petersburg are constructed on the tops of houses, it ought not to be difficult to provide Volunteers with short distance ranges in a similar way. Why should not short ranges be constructed on the tops of the drill-halls ? This suggestion is perfectly practicable and worthy of consideration. The military authorities are making a mistake in insisting too much on shooting at long ranges. I admit that it is much more amusing. I admit also that men cannot become first-rate shots except at long ranges ; but if they are made good shots at 200 yards, they can be quickly made good shots at long ranges. The want of London in the matter of ranges is extreme. You have in London between 30,000 and 40,000 Volunteers, and there are only twelve possible ranges which they can use. There are the Bisley ranges, which are very much used, but which are at a very inconvenient distance and badly served in the matter of trains. Then you have the Caterham range, which is a very small one. The Childs Hill range is also a small one, and cannot be enlarged. The Ilford range belongs to the Morris Tube Company, and has, I believe, been condemned as being unsafe. The Milton range, near Gravesend, is a Government range, and is only used by Volunteers when the Regulars do not want it ; and the Pirbright range can only be used on Saturdays, when the Guards do not require it. The Rainham range is one that might be added to, but the result of our inquiries is that the cost would be too great. There are several other ranges, but of these twelve possible ranges there are but two—Bisley and Runnymede—which are practically available for the Volunteers.

The London County Council, as the noble Lord the Under Secretary for War stated, had decided to provide a range at a cost of £164,000—of which the War Office agreed to pay half—and to let it to the London Volunteers at a small rent. The County Council proposed to acquire the land they had in view under the Military Lands Act, and they obtained for the purpose the necessary requisition from the London Volunteers, but, to their surprise, the commanding officers suddenly changed their minds and said they did not want to have anything to do with the proposal. The matter then dropped. The noble Lord said it was because the commanding officers would have nothing to do with the County Council that they came to this decision; but I have the suspicion that the officers, knowing how strong was their case for a range, thought they would ultimately get the range for nothing, instead of having to pay even the small rent which would have been charged by the London County Council under the proposed arrangement. We (the County Council) were not going to make any profit out of the range, and the money we would have received for grazing on the land would have been so considerable as to enable us to let the range at a comparatively small cost. I am anxious to take this opportunity of thanking the War Office for their action in the matter, and also of putting in a good word for that much-abused body, the London County Council, who, in this case, at any rate, rose to the level of what I may almost call its Imperial duties. The noble Lord was a little sarcastic with reference to Dr. Fearon's proposed contribution to the range at Winchester. I think he accurately described what took place, but when Dr. Fearon offered to provide a range himself he had the promise of private help and concessions with regard to the land on which the range was to be made. The cost to him of constructing the range, therefore, would not have been large, and the £500 he proposed to contribute afterwards was a very large proportion of what the actual cost to him would have been had his proposal been allowed to be carried out. This is a case in which the people who had rights over the land thought the War Office fair game, and they were, therefore, prepared to claim considerably more than would have been the case if the range had been allowed to be constructed by the Headmaster of the school.

At present, under the Military Lands Act, local authorities have only the power to buy land for ranges. I think it would be a great help if they were allowed also to hire land for this purpose. After all, local authorities and Volunteer corps are transitory bodies, and, if Government help was given to the hiring of land instead of actual purchase, it would be of advantage. There is often a reluctance to enter into a big purchase scheme, which places a permanent obligation upon both the local authority and the Volunteer corps. For some reason or other the range may eventually cease to be used, and they would then be saddled with land for which they had no use. Before the debate closes I trust that we shall hear that the Government are at once prepared to do something more to assist our soldiers and Volunteers in this matter. It is especially important in view of the new proposals made by the Secretary of State in another place, because, after all, as I understand, we are largely to be dependent in the future for our defence in this country on the Auxiliary forces. It is impossible that these men can be trained and disciplined like Regular soldiers, but they can be made good shots if they are provided with ranges and plenty of ammunition.

*LORD BELHAVEN AND STENTON: May I trespass on the time of the House for one moment to add my testimony to the necessity for a few short ranges in the neighbourhood of London? I am greatly interested in the matter, having for the last thirteen years commanded a brigade of Metropolitan Volunteers. The difficulties which my brigade have experienced in finding range accommodation have been very great. Short ranges would take off a great deal of the pressure upon the good long ranges which we have at Bisley and Runnymede. Ranges of 300 or 400 yards, with high walls at the back, would meet the requirements and be perfectly safe. I have in my mind a range at Hounslow which has been used for many years, and I have never heard of any accident there. I know the range on Wormwood Scrubbs very well, but I think the more open range is the one we ought to have in larger numbers round London. I hope the War Office will see their way to help the Metropolitan Volunteers with more ranges in the immediate vicinity of their headquarters.

*THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: My Lords, I wish to say, with respect to the Winchester range, that what has fallen from my noble friend Lord Tweedmouth is perfectly accurate. Dr. Fearon, the Headmaster of Winchester College, had no intention of buying the land for the range, but he had made arrangements with the tenant of the land. He was quite prepared, at his own expense, to fit up the range, and I am not surprised that, when he could have done that perfectly easily in a few months, he should have been somewhat irritated in finding that, when the War Office took up the affair, it went on for more than three years, and ended by a letter from the Under Secretary of State for War saying that nothing whatever could be done. As regards the five hundred pounds, I am bound to say that in my opinion this was an exceedingly handsome offer on the part of Dr. Fearon in the circumstances of the case. I have no doubt the noble and gallant Lord the Under Secretary of State for War is aware that only a few days ago an unanimous resolution was passed by the Town Council of Winchester thanking Dr. Fearon for his exertions; and, in the course of the discussion, no very polite language was used towards the War Office in respect to their interference. I hope the Papers will be produced. I am sure my noble friend Lord Spencer will agree with me that we do not care to have the whole of the communications, and that a *précis* will be sufficient. I should be glad to see the opinion which was given by the officer comanding the Winchester depôt on the subject, and also the opinion of the Inspector General of Auxiliary Forces, who, of course, is the officer who would be consulted by the War Office on a matter of that sort.

Not only are the depôts of the two battalions of the Hampshire Regiment at Winchester, but barracks are now being built there for the King's Royal Rifles and the Rifle Brigade—eight battalions. It is also the depôt of the Hampshire Militia, and there is a very strong company of Volunteers there. It seems to me that there can be very few places in England where it is of more importance to have a range than at Winchester, and from my own knowledge of the locality I can say that there are several sites on which an excellent range could be provided. As regards the case of London, my noble friend Lord Tweedmouth has given the view of the London County Council. I do not know whether any commanding officer of London Volunteers is present in your Lordships' House, but I cannot believe that the commanding officers of the London Volunteer teers could have refused----

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: It is absolutely true.

*THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: I cannot think that they refused the offer for the reason stated. I am told that their objections arose partly from financial reasons and partly in consequence of the control which the County Council wished to exercise over the range. I do not, however, state that of my own knowledge. The noble and gallant Lord the Under Secretary used some very strong expressions regarding the great desirability of acting with the local authorities in the provision of rifle ranges, and he also, with much truth, said that when it is known that the Government are negotiating for land for any purpose, the owners and occupiers ask higher terms than they would ask from the local authorities. My noble friend Lord Tweedmouth suggested that power should be given to local authorities to hire land for rifle ranges. I must remind your Lordships that this subject was brought before the House last year, and the noble Marquess the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, who was then Secretary of State for War, entered most cordially into the views of the local authorities in respect to their willingness to help the Government. My noble friend Lord Dartmouth took a great interest in this question, and brought it forward in the House. He was afterwards chairman of a body started by the Middlesex County Council, called the Counties Volunteer Development Association. That body put itself into communication with the County Councils Association, on which, as your Lordships know, there are representatives of all the county councils in England. I happened to be deputed by the County Councils Association to confer with Lord Dartmouth's Committee, and we drew up a Report as to how we thought local authorities might assist the Government. That Report was put before the general meeting of the County Councils Association, at which all the counties in England were represented, and the following resolution was unanimously agreed to—

> "That it is desirable that the Military Lands Act, 1892, should be amended to enable the Council of a county or borough to hire land for military purposes."

We also recommended that there should be power given to the county councils, with certain restrictions, to hire land compulsorily for rifle ranges. This recommendation was carried unanimously. The meeting also expressed the opinion that the expenses of the provision and equipment of ranges for Volunteers should be provided by Parliament, and not out of the rates. That opinion was entirely endorsed by my noble friend Lord Kimberley when the subject was last discussed in this House. The noble Marquess opposite adopted the views of the County Councils Association as regards the hiring of land for ranges, and was kind enough to embody them in the clauses of the Military Lands Act of last year, which passed through all its stages in your Lordships' House. In the other House the clauses connected with hiring land were omitted. I presume, from the sources of public information, that this happened because the Bill came on at the end of the session, and because some opposition was offered to those clauses. I feel certain that if those clauses had become law, very much better facilities would have been in the hands of the War Office to provide rifle ranges than now. The manner in which the county councils deal with such matters is more practical, and more likely to lead to a fair settlement, than the sending down of military officers to negotiate for the purchase of land. There is first an inquiry conducted by three members of the county council —men who know the neighbourhood and the people—and usually they can settle things amicably on reasonable terms.

If it came to compulsion, it would be, of course, subject to an appeal to the Local Government Board after a public inquiry, so that there would be no danger of any person having his property injuriously affected by the compulsory power. In the Bill originally introduced into this House there was a defect—a defect which exists in a good deal of our legislation—inasmuch as the procedure was by reference to other Acts of Parliament. No doubt strong objections can fairly be raised to legislation of that kind. Objection was raised by my noble friend Lord Thring and my noble friend the Chairman of Committees, and I think it would be very desirable if, instead of legislating by reference, clauses were introduced into any future Bill of the kind which would distinctly show the procedure and the precautions to be taken to prevent any injury to property by the compulsory power, because compulsory power in respect of rifle ranges is a matter of very much greater consequence to owners of property than compulsory power to hire small pieces of land for allotments; and when land is hired compulsorily for rifle ranges there should be a provision to enable the owner of the property, on paying fair compensation, to get the land back if he required it for building or other purposes. I do not know whether His Majesty's Government are going to introduce any such measure in the present session of Parliament, but if I hear that it would be of any assistance to the Government if a private Member introduced such a Bill—and there would be very little difficulty in preparing it—I shall be perfectly willing to undertake it and lay it on the Table. I hope, at the same time, to receive some assurance that the Government do not intend to ask the local authorities in the country to support, out of the rates, rifle ranges which are really necessary for national purposes.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of LANSDOWNE): My Lords, I have very little to add to the speech of my noble and gallant friend behind me, which I think was accepted by your Lordships as indicating that the Department which he represents is in full sympathy with the views of the noble Earl opposite as to the importance of providing our Volunteers with adequate range accommodation. I am not sure that my noble friend brought out to the full extent the financial assistance which His Majesty's Government is prepared to give with this object. There is, of course, to begin with, the large expenditure which has taken place on certain ranges for the Regular troops—an expenditure which may be stated in round figures at one million pounds. Those ranges, though primarily designed for the Regular troops, will be to some extent available for the Auxiliary forces; but besides that, during the course of last year no less than £170,000 was set apart for the special purpose of providing Volunteer ranges. The whole of the money has not yet been allocated, but even as long ago as the month of June last year we were advised that when the sums already allocated had been spent the process of providing the Volunteer forces with suitable range accommodation, except in the case of London Volunteers, would have advanced far towards completion. After the provision of these ranges we were told that there would in future be no corps without suitable ranges within easy reach, not only of their headquarters, but even of detailed companies. That was, I think, a substantial step in the direction which the noble Earl wishes.

With regard to short ranges, my noble friend opposite suggested that the War Office had not been quite diligent enough; but it is within my knowledge that in the circular which was sent out exactly a year ago the general officers commanding districts were desired to take the question of providing these shorter ranges into their consideration, and report upon it. I believe it is perfectly true that the military authorities do not lean towards those ranges quite so decidedly as my noble friend does, and I will not attempt to decide whether they or he are right. With regard to the other class of ranges which have been referred to as gallery or closed ranges, my noble friend asked whether the Report of the two officers whom we sent to the Continent last year to inquire into this question had added usefully to our knowledge on the subject. I have seen that Report, and I think I may summarise its purport by saying that it goes to show that, partly owing to the great difference in the conditions prevailing in other countries, and for other reasons, we have not a great deal to learn from their practice in this respect. As to Switzerland in particular, I believe the officers reported that gallery ranges were not greatly encouraged by the Swiss Government. With regard to the case of London, I do not think my noble friend at all overstated the urgency of the need of the London Volunteers for range accommodation, and it certainly cannot be made a subject of complaint against the War Office that they have not attempted to provide that accommodation. Two extremely promising schemes have, one after the other, broken down at the last moment, one because the land was required for a great water supply project, the other on account of a regrettable difference of opinion, which I cannot help hoping may prove to have been due, to some extent, to misapprehensions, which we would, I am sure, all of us be heartily glad to see removed.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: The London County Council have not dropped the question. The last step they took was to suspend further action. The Rifle-Range Committee are ready to take action again if the Volunteer commanding officers approach them.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: If the door is still open I trust that some means will be found to enable those most interested to pass through it. The Winchester case was a very unfortunate one, and I can assure your Lordships that if Dr. Fearon and the friends of the college were disappointed, the War Office was equally disappointed. The story is a simple one. Dr. Fearon thought he would provide range accommodation for the school on favourable terms. We cordially wished to co-operate with him, and to widen the scheme in such a way as to make it available for the Volunteers of the neighbourhood. Then came negotiations, references to the valuer, finally a long controversy between the military authorities and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and all this ended in a demand for a sum which we regarded as exorbitant, and which would certainly have absorbed so large a part of the money available for these purposes that we, not unnaturally, did not consider it desirable to carry the transactions through. But if there was delay the delay was not all due to the military authorities, but in great measure to the causes which I have mentioned.

We have been asked why we did not set in motion compulsory powers in connection with the Winchester case. Our experience of compulsory purchase is not a favourable one, and we were advised, on what we believed to be good advice, not to use them in that particular case. My noble friend Lord Northbrook referred to the subject, which was frequently debated in this House last year, of giving facilities to local authorities for acquiring ranges for Volunteers. The noble Earl only did me justice when he said that I used my best endeavours in this House to carry a Bill for that purpose, and I did it in the face of a certain amount of criticism, of which I do not in the least complain, because I think that some of it was probably well founded. I did succeed in carrying the Bill through this House, but in the stormy weather which prevails in Parliament towards the end of the session, the clause in which the noble Earl is interested had, like other good clauses, to be thrown overboard, and nobody regretted its disappearance more than I did. If the noble Earl will lay a Bill on the Table of the House, I feel confident that it will be discussed by your Lordships in a benevolent spirit. One word with regard to what was said by my noble friend opposite. I will not follow him in the interesting remarks he made upon the subject of musketry instruction in the British Army. I dare say it may be the case that in many respects the system requires to be reviewed, and I have no doubt that that is one of the lessons of the South African War which is not likely to be lost sight of. But I do wish to express the pleasure with which I heard what fell from him with regard to the rifle now in the hands of our soldiers. I can very well remember the time when we were constantly told that the rifle, like everything which we supplied to the troops, was of an inferior character, far inferior to that in the hands of the Boers, and so forth. I am relieved to find that the complaint my noble friend makes is not that the rifle is bad, but that it is a great deal too good.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: The shooting is excellent, but the mechanism might be greatly improved.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My noble friend thinks, at all events, that it is too good to put in the hands of a man who habitually uses it. All I need say in sitting down is that I feel quite sure the War Department will keep this subject constantly in view, and do its utmost year by year to meet the requirements of the Volunteer force.

House adjourned at half-past Six of the clock, to Thursday next, half-past Ten of the clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 26th March, 1901.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz.:—

Great Central Railway Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDERS 62 AND 66 COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Orders Nos. 62 and 66 have been complied with, viz.:—

Kingscourt, Keady, and Armagh Railway Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

GLASGOW AND SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY BILL.

HULL, BARNSLEY, AND WEST RIDING JUNCTION RAILWAY AND DOCK BILL.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (TRAMWAYS AND STREET WIDENINGS) BILL.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAYS BILL.

NOTTING HILL ELECTRIC LIGHTING BILL.

CAMBRIAN RAILWAYS BILL.

(BY ORDER.)

Read a second time, and committed.

LONDON WATER (PURCHASE) BILL.

(BY ORDER.)

Order for Second Reading read.

*MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea): I beg to move the Second Reading of this Bill. It is a private Bill, but, in consequence of the magnitude of the issues involved and the large area to which it applies, as well as the public interest which for many years—for generations I may say—has attached to this subject, it is not a private Bill in the ordinary sense, but it is a public measure of great and universal interest to London. It is a Bill, too, which, notwithstanding the magnitude of the issues involved, would, had it applied to any other city than London, have been unanimously read a second time and sent upstairs to be dealt with by the ordinary tribunal appointed by this House. It ought not to be made a Government measure. It ought not to be subjected to either Parliamentary prejudices or political tests. It is a Bill that is complicated by many issues which, in the past have prevented London getting what, under similar circumstances, other municipalities have secured and enjoyed. But, being a London Bill, this measure has to pass exceptional ordeals. There are many reasons for this, but I need not go into them this afternoon. They are patent to everybody, but I believe that some day public opinion will make up its mind in such an overwhelming and decisive manner that even Parliament will no longer ignore the claims of London.

This Bill has an exceedingly good object. It deals with a matter of public health, and involves the elements of life and death in a great community. It deals with a subject which vitally affects this great metropolis. It has to do with cleanliness and with public safety. It seeks to give to London that coequality of treatment which is enjoyed by other cities—cities which have been afforded the opportunity of converting the private ownership of the public water supply into a municipal ownership, and which have, consequently, been enabled to improve the public health, and to reduce the cost of the water supply. What other cities and towns have been permitted to do this Bill proposes to enable London to do. It will, if carried, convert a supervisory body in regard to water—and that is what the London County Council now is—into an owning and controlling body, with full powers and the widest responsibilities. I contend, on behalf of the London County Council, that as that body is the fire authority, the drainage authority, and the flood prevention authority for five millions of people, the additional power that this Bill seeks to impose upon it is the logical complement of its public health duties. Recent events have induced the London County Council to repeat this session the policy of purchase which has characterised that body ever since it was created. At the last election London gave to the County Council a clear, decisive, and overwhelming mandate in favour of the purchase of the London water companies' undertakings. [Cries of "No, no."] Hon. Members say, "No, no." I have the honour of being elected on the County Council with a majority of 4,100 votes. That decisive majority could not have been given to me on account either of my views on the war or on pure beer. It was the largest majority I ever secured, and I believe it was given in favour of the policy I have always advocated of securing a pure water supply under the management of the London County Council. I believe it will not be generally disputed that that mandate was given because the view is growing up in London that the County Council is the only body which can be definitely charged with the purposes of this Bill. It is the only authority that has, or could have, power to deal with the question effectually. It is the only body which could be expected to raise the money necessary for the purchase of these gigantic undertakings. I will only quote one authority in support of my opinion of the nature of the mandate, and that is that of Mr. Harris, the able and courteous leader of the Moderate party on the London County Council. He says that the election was fought on the question of the expropriation of the water companies as soon as possible. That is clear and unmistakable. He also says: "Personally I have no doubt whatever as to the mandate of the Council to get the question settled."

I now come very briefly to the history of this question. Since 1880 we have had commissions galore and committees innumerable, and all of them have ended in favour of purchase, while many of them have trended to control. I am glad to say there has been absolute unanimity as to what should be the authority purchasing these gigantic undertakings. The Report of the Water Committee in 1880 said it would be desirable to have some public authority to regulate the water companies. Now we know all that the regulation of the water by a public company is impossible, for these companies have been unable to regulate themselves. The 1880 Committee also said that it would be possible to have an independent supply, and upon that I have just one word to say. I believe to obtain an independent supply would be difficult and costly, and that it is altogether unnecessary, but these Commissions are all agreed that the purchase of the water supply should be accomplished. That is the object of this Bill. This Bill varies very slightly from the one that was introduced in 1890, seeking power to acquire and administer the water companies, which was rejected. In 1895 a similar Bill for the purchase of the companies was carried by a majority. That Bill went to a Select Committee, over which Mr. Plunkett presided. A practical settlement was imminent and possible, but after the Committee had sat for twenty days the dissolution of Parliament prevented that settlement taking place. Since 1895 the Bill had been reintroduced several times, but since then Lord James has added to the difficulty by introducing a Water Board and Trust Bill, which was not proceeded with for a reason which, I believe, will always apply to any such measure if ever it is introduced. In 1897 we had another Bill rejected because a Royal Commission had been appointed to consider the whole question, and it was not considered desirable to legislate while that Commission was sitting. Now I believe in Royal Commissions upon this subject just as much and just as little as Lord Salisbury, and for the reasons he gave. In that we are in strict accord. In 1900 the Commission reported, and in 1901 we find the London County Council still persisting in the policy of purchase, that persistence endorsed by water consumers, the proceedings of the Royal Commission strengthening, rather than otherwise, our intention to carry out this undertaking.

Those are the short and simple annals of the London County Council in respect to water purchase, but it is just as well that we should know what has happened between the appointment of the Royal Commission and the introduction of this Bill. We have had two water famines, a great addition to the capital of the water undertakings, huge reservoirs constructed and storage tanks erected, and we have had Parliament recognising the difficulty and gravity of the problem by insisting that the exceptional nature of the problem demanded that all the companies should be linked up together, and that they should assist each other in times of emergency when there was a shortage of water. I say that the very fact of the Government having been compelled to interfere with private companies in that way indicates, first of all, how short the water supply of London really is, to what straits that supply is reduced, and also what may some day be imminent, unless the London County Council policy of purchase and a new supply is undertaken. The crowning injustice of the present situation was brought before us in January this year. The water company, seeing difficulties and troubles ahead of them in the matter of water supply, have attempted to impress upon their customers the necessity of storing water, which practically brings back the old cistern system, at the same time making an extravagant charge, and the effect of that has been that the London County Council has received a mandate for the purchase, administration, and management by a public authority of the water supply of London, the like of which London has never before experienced, and which the Council through this Bill demands.

Now the gravity of this problem is indicated by the very sensible words of Lord Onslow, made use of in a speech when he was a member of the London County Council in 1895. These were his words—

> "He thought that since the events of this summer, knowing that they had narrowly escaped a very serious calamity in the East End, there were not many in the council but would agree with him that the time had come when they could not any longer allow the water supply of London to remain in private hands. He believed they were now almost unanimously agreed that the water companies must be purchased."

What was said in 1895 by Lord Onslow, London has said since by elections, and both the opinion of London and Lord Onslow have been confirmed by the Report of the Royal Commission of 1899, which shortly said—

> (*a*) "That the work of rendering potable by scientific treatment the river-derived water supply of London should be in the hands of a public authority."
>
> (*b*) "That, if a public authority became the purchaser, water would be supplied at constant pressure to the highest houses."
>
> (*c*) "That unification of the water undertakings would bring in its train facilities of intercommunication and simplification of extension and enlargement of the water supply."
>
> (*d*) "That it would tend to the prevention of waste."
>
> (*e*) "That it would afford greater facility for raising the large sums necessary for the future supply."
>
> (*f*) "In view of the prospective requirements of water supply in London."

I contend upon those six points that the Report of the Royal Commission is in favour of the London County Council rather than against it, but the Report of the Royal Commission unfortunately stultified these excellent recommendations by others which are not so good. One of those recommendations was that there should be a water trust—well, Trust is dead, the last election killed him.

The problem of acquisition was further complicated by the Lands Clauses Act, conditions of purchase being imposed upon London by the Royal Commission of 1899. It is convenient that the House should know what has been the result of all these inquiries. The Committee of 1880 recommended purchase, the Bill of 1891 advocated a single water authority, the Royal Commission of 1896 protested against the present company system, the Bill of 1898 linked all the companies up together, the Report of the Commission of 1899 recommended purchase, and the London County Council on Tuesday last, by a majority of ninety-one to seven, decided in favour of this Bill. We may take it for granted therefore that the London County Council is nearly unanimously of opinion that purchase is desirable in the interest of the river, the trade of London, the health, the pleasure, and the fire safety of London generally. In a word, all inquiries end in purchase, all experience leads to amalgamation, and all failures of water supply make for the water supply of London to be, as in Glasgow, Bradford, and Birmingham, in the hands of the rate-paying authority. All these resolutions are in favour of the administration of water being in the hands of a public body, and except for an unreasonable minority all are agreed the County Council is that body. I believe the people who raise the money ought to purchase. The people will have to pay the money, and their trusted representatives ought to be the people to purchase, and that was the mandate of the last election.

Now why should the London County Council purchase? Because the London County Council is the only body that can raise the £30,000,000 or £40,000,000 which are necessary for that purpose. No trust could do it. A Parliament should not give power to any irresponsible trust to raise such a sum as that from the public; and, moreover, I believe, if Parliament did give power to a Trust to levy a rate for that purpose, the whole of London would revolt against it, and the scheme would be an absolute failure, if not at its inception, in its subsequent mismanagement. The London County Council is directly elected, and is susceptible, as all such institutions are in England, to popular and proper influence; its financial credit is good, the commercial capacity of the officers of the finance Committee is undoubted, its officers are qualified to carry out the administration of this undertaking, and as London will have to provide four-fifths of the purchase money, I see no reason why Parliament should not give it this power. If the London County Council is allowed to purchase, it is asked what will it do? I think it will display its characteristic zeal and energy, and a typical regard to the outside local authorities with which it has to deal. It will boldly and, at the same time, economically administer a better water supply, and in the administration will serve its constituencies well, and in so doing, I believe, will economically pursue the line of least resistance. It will seek the co-operation of many local bodies now supposed to be its enemies; it will make terms with the outside authorities, as it now effectively does over its outside drainage areas into its system; it will supply to them in bulk any supply which may be required, and generally speaking the County Council and the outside authorities can be left to make reciprocal terms under the Bill.

Some may say, given the Council as authority, what are to be the conditions as to price? I believe that the only bone of contention between the London County Council and the water companies is the conditions of price; and given that the price could be settled, I do not think you would find that the companies would stand up or care for the outside authorities. They give the outside authorities no power of control now; they appropriate their water and charge them whatever they like. Worse conditions than those the outside areas could not get from the London County Council, and they stand to gain more than they can lose. The companies want the highest price possible, the London County Council desires a fair and reasonable price determined by arbitration, which shall take all the circumstances of the case into consideration. This is objected to as being hard upon the companies; submit that to a tribunal such as the Council demands. Before the Land Clauses Act was passed, and water companies bothered, and London County Council promoted Bills, my illustrious namesake made a very true remark. Robert Burns wrote—

> "When self the wavering balance shakes
> It's rarely right adjusted."

That applies to the companies as forcibly as to the London County Council. I want neither the London County Council nor the water companies to strike the wavering balance. The Land Clauses Act cannot apply, and I want an arbitration to investigate the case with a neutral umpire between the water companies on the one side and the London County Council on the other.

I shall be told, perhaps, that Parliament has never done what the London County Council seeks and asks power to do. Parliament has, and has not, done it. It has partially done it. Parliament sanctioned special terms of arbitration under the Housing of the Working Classes Act in 1890, and I am quite prepared to leave this matter to such a tribunal as they sanctioned under that Act. Hon. Members opposite who object to this particular form of arbitration tribunal in the Council Bill must remember that Lord Plunket's clause, and several of the recommendations of subsequent Committees and Commissions, have been at variance upon the rigid automatic operation of the Lands Clauses Act. The London County Council say that the Lands Clauses Act may mean eight different arbitrations, sixteen different arbiters, and eight umpires. The County Council want to simplify and unify the process of arbitration under this Water Bill, and they want a strong tribunal for the acquisition of the eight companies, so that this matter shall be settled by a competent and strong tribunal with full knowledge of all the facts and circumstances relating to our London Water Supply. What is more, it is not fair to take the Lands Clauses Act, which was not passed for a special undertaking like the water scheme of London. The arbiter ought to take into consideration the question of plant, buildings, pipes, and machinery. All these are fit subjects for special valuation and for independent arbitration. Paragraphs 54 and 56 of the report of the Commission confirm the need for special arbitration by declaring no solatium for compulsory sale. Paragraph 128 of the report of the Commission of 1899 says that the large expenditure established the necessity for some form of special arbitration. Parliament also, by the Sterilisation clauses passed in recent years in regard to new capital, has shown how the water companies differ from those engaged in other matters. What is more, the new expenditure which the companies have undertaken, and the restrictions Parliament has imposed, are all eloquent in favour of the special form of arbitration I have indicated. Whether that be so or not, it is not on the Second Reading that these details ought to be threshed out. The proper tribunal to discuss them is the Committee upstairs first, and then the special tribunal to which I have alluded, and it is because I believe that a trust, if brought in, will have to undergo a similar test that I ask Parliament to give the trust to the County Council, which has received so many mandates for dealing with this subject. I wish this subject to go to the tribunal upstairs to be settled in a proper way.

On this point some hon. Members may say, what about severance? Well, the Council has been, I think, put in the worst light with regard to severance. I believe it has been exaggerated rather by certain opponents of the Council and by suspicious friends of the outside areas, who, in my opinion, do not care twopence for the outside areas except as a means of playing them off against the Council, to the detriment of both, and for the betterment of the water companies. But I might say this, as a matter of fact: Birmingham, with a population of 500,000, supplies 180,000 outside; Bolton, with a population of 120,000, supplies 130,000 outside. I could give instance after instance in which it is possible for a central municipal body to get over the difficulties severance implies, and where, generally speaking, it works harmoniously with its neighbours. What the provincial cities have done London will undoubtedly do. But some may say, what experience have we that that harmonious action will take place? I can only give the nearest parallel instance I can find. The Council in spending £200,000 on technical education works with outside bodies most harmoniously, it co-opts outsiders and strangers, and they have done great work between them. It sends six members to the Thames Conservancy, and no one will deny that these six have done some good work. It works with the City Corporation on many public questions, and notably for gas, and on some occasions for municipal water supply. Whilst on drainage, it has solved the question of severance with many outside authorities already. It works with the local authorities of London on such subjects as gas regulation and water control; it is the harmonious convener of the local authorities of London, and is slowly but surely winning its way as the champion of London, and as the buttress against those municipalities which too long have threatened London's existence. It is on the ground that purchase is desirable that I ask that the Council should have power to purchase; it is because I think a public authority is desirable for this that I think the Council is the best authority, and it is because I think I have proved that the Council will not override the outside areas that I ask that this Bill be passed.

What is the alternative to the Council's Bill? The alternative is the Water Board, and what is the Water Board? It is to consist of thirty members, and there is to be little of the London County Council on it—no direct representative of the water consumers are to be preponderant. London in this respect is to be muzzled by the creation of this Water Board. The Report of the Royal Commission says that a trust of thirty nominated members will be representative. I deny it. It will not be more capable than the Council. I believe it will be less capable than any statutory committee of the London County Council. It will be more costly, because this trust of thirty members will require salaries, I presume, of from £3,000 a year for the chairman down to £1,800 for some of the other members. It will be more extravagant and less susceptible to public influence and control. The trust will be above criticism, it will be beyond removal if it does wrong. It will represent nobody but themselves. It will be without mandate and without representation. Now I put to hon. Members opposite, who do not agree with me, How much longer should London be subjected to these nominated bodies? Past experience proves that they are less efficient, more costly, and more difficult to deal with than the popularly elected Borough Council or County Council. But see how this metropolis is being treated in this matter, how in a descending scale London has been treated over a number of years. Lord Cross's Bill elected a trust of twenty-one, and 76 per cent. were from London; the City Bill in 1891 gave 53 per cent.; the Vestries Bill in 1891 gave 74 per cent. to London; Lord James's Bill of 1896 gave 60 per cent. to London; but the Report of the Royal Commission of 1899 gives London only 33 per cent. of the representation on this trust. That is 33 per cent. of the representation on a body that represents 80 per cent. of the consumers and will provide 87 per cent. of the money necessary to purchase these undertakings. There are no equal rights for all white men in that. I say it is a slur upon the municipal representation. It is a reproach upon the admitted zeal and capacity of the London County Council, and it is a kind of stigma which would not be attached to any other body but that which for the moment has the honour and pride of the burdensome duty of representing the people against the vested interests of this vast city. But some will say that this trust will probably select a better type of men to manage the water supply of London than the County Council could elect or select. Is that the fact? We have had water directors on the London County Council. I venture to say, from the point of view of ability and capacity and disinterested service to London, they were the least conspicuously able and capable on the London County Council. From the point of view of capacity, they were less commendable than any of the other County Councillors I had the honour of working with. What are the facts? The average water director is not an engineer. If he were an engineer, he would have put the water companies waterworks into better order than they have been on many past occasions. If the water directors were chemists, they would have urged upon the Water Board the necessity of getting a supply of some water better than that from a sewage-polluted watershed. If they had been men of business they would have made their dividends and yet placed London consumers in a better position than had been the case in the past. I believe that if the Council Bill is passed and we have a Statutory Committee or an ordinary Committee of the London County Council, we shall have a competent and capable body of men to manage our water supply. I venture to pit Mr. Dickinson against any director connected with the water companies. I venture to pit Mr. McKinnon Wood against any hon. Member representing water in this House. I venture to say that the chemists, engineers, retired business men, and capable civil servants whom London has harnessed to the chariot of its municipal work, are in every sense better qualified than the average water director, who is elected for other and frequently not such exalted reasons. Is there any reason to suspect the Council of inefficiency for the management of water affairs? Is there any reason to suspect the efficiency of the management of its fire brigade? Sometimes, however, we do not get enough water at our fires. Our drainage and flood prevention is exceedingly well done, while the purification of the river, which has been undertaken by the London County Council under difficult circumstances, is the admiration of every Member of this House. I hold that for efficiency, capacity, and disinterestedness there is no reason for a trust, and there is no reason for mistrust of the Council.

My last point is this. Suppoisng the Council is the body to purchase, supposing that purchase is decided upon as it must be, and supposing a Committee of this House and the arbitration tribunal take all the circumstances of the case into consideration, is there any reason to suppose that the London County Council will not be equal to the work, while the provincial corporations which have managed the water supplies had done so in a magnificent yet practical manner? Why should London be the Cinderella of all municipalities? Why should it do all the drudgery of municipal work and have none of the remunerative duties to perform? The million a year which the water companies now earn for their shareholders might better go in reduction of rates, extension and improvement of the water supply, the cleaning of streets, and in removing slums and in carrying out other beneficent municipal objects, which other cities to their credit had done. The Empire city is alone to be snubbed in this way. The metropolis alone is to suffer this contemptuous disqualification. London does not lack the engineering skill. Londoners can bridge the Indus, we can ford the Ganges, and we can dam the Nile. We can irrigate the dry places of the earth, and we can make two blades of wheat or grass grow where one formerly could only be produced. All but London is to feel the impulse of engineering talent, of civic zeal, and social reorganisation. This ought not to be. On the contrary, if this Bill is passed, London will be able to attract to the management of her water supply some of the ablest men, some of her most devoted citizens. In moving the Second Reading I appeal to provincial Members, who in their own cities enjoy to-day what London lacks, to help the metropolis, whose hospitality they enjoy, in the struggle against the water monopolist, the water director, and water shareholder, and to give London the means of reducing its death-rate and increasing its health and happiness by securing a cheap, pure, regular, and sufficient water supply.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

*SIR F. DIXON-HARTLAND (Middlesex, Uxbridge): In rising to move the rejection of the Second Reading of this Bill, I must compliment the hon. Member for Battersea, who moved the Second Reading, upon the very moderate way in which he has stated his case, and I think the London County Council have done the very best thing they could in placing the Bill in his hands. I am very sorry that the London County Council have introduced this Bill now, because practically the same measure was brought in last year, and I think this is an unnecessary wasting of the time of this House. I consider also that it is very hard upon the taxpayers of this Metropolis that money should be wasted upon a Bill which the promoters know very well has no chance of passing. After the Report of the Royal Commission, and after the undertaking given by the Government to bring in a Bill next year dealing with this question they could have no hope of seeing this Bill pass. The hon. Member for Battersea stated that in the case of any other city or town but London, the Second Reading of such a Bill would have been passed at once. The hon. Member for Battersea spoke of this measure as a London Bill, but it is because it is not a London Bill that it is opposed at the present moment. The hon. Member for Battersea has spoken about the mandate received at the last election by the London County Council in regard to the water supply of London. I have no hesitation in contradicting that assertion, and I say that they had no mandate of that sort from the electors at the recent elections. What caused the defeat of the Moderate party was the regulations brought in just before the election by the water companies, which I think were obnoxious to almost everybody in the Metropolis. Both sides on the London County Council were equally opposed to those water regulations, and it was a most suicidal policy. The report went out that it was only the Progressives who were opposed to these water regulations, but that was not the fact. It is well known that if you give a lie twenty-four hours start, it is difficult to catch it up again. Therefore, this mandate spoken of as being in favour of this Bill does not exist. The hon. Member for Battersea has used arguments which have been answered over and over again in this House, and he has not approached the real question when he says that it is a London question. He says that the London County Council is the proper body to have charge of the whole transactions of the water companies, but what did the Royal Commission say upon this point. They reported that—

> "Inasmuch, therefore, as all the metropolitan counties, except Hertfordshire, are bent on demanding what the London County Council are pledged to concede, we think that a purchase by the London County Council of the water undertakings must necessarily be followed by that severance and division of the works of supply and distribution into five distinct portions, which appears to us open to so much objection as to be practically inadmissible. On this ground, among others, we have come to the conclusion that the London County Council should not be the purchaser."

I wish to bring before the House the fact that the limits of supply of the water companies extend over 620 square miles, of which only 122 square miles are within the jurisdiction of the London County Council. That leaves nearly 500 square miles outside these limits, which include part of the counties of Middlesex, Surrey, Essex, Hertford, and Kent, and in such parts there are four boroughs and fifty-six urban and rural district councils, a total of sixty local authorities. The area and population supplied by the companies in 1898 were as follows: Inside Metropolitan area, 120 square miles, population 4,478,396. Outside Metropolitan area, 230 square miles, population 1,341,187. These figures, relating to all the companies, bear out the conclusion above stated, that almost the whole future increase of population and water supply will take place outside the area of the London County Council. If the London County Council are permitted to purchase the undertakings of the water companies, they must either supply the other counties and local authorities with water in bulk, or divide the sources of supply and works of distribution between the five metropolitan counties.

What has taken place in regard to these companies only last year? I will take the case of three companies. The Lambeth Water Company during the last four years increased its inside area to the extent of 6,431, while the outside area increased by 6,857. Therefore it will be seen that the consumption of water is growing faster in the outside area of this company than in the inside. The outside area of this company includes the borough of Croydon and Kingston-on-Thames, and other rural and urban districts which do not want to come under the London County Council. The Grand Junction Water Company as late as February last were actually supplying more water in the county of Middlesex than in London. In the case of the East London Water Company the increase of the supply in the outside area amounted to between 30,000 and 40,000 gallons more each year, whilst the supply in their inside area was diminishing. The population supplied by the East London Company is only 6,360 inside the London area, while the population supplied outside is 648,936. Therefore if the London County Council are permitted to purchase these undertakings they must supply water in bulk to these places outside their own area. Sir Alexander Binnie, the engineer of the London County Council, in his evidence before the Royal Commission stated—

> "that, as a water engineer, he would not advocate such a severance from the point of view of economy in the administration and construction of the works; and that in his opinion the objections to severance and its cost would lead the outside counties to take water in bulk from the county of London, contenting themselves with taking over the distribution of that water in their own district."

With regard to these two modes of supply the Royal Commission report—

> "The system of supply in bulk is not only inconvenient and expensive, but it shuts out the supplying authority from prospective increase of income arising in the district supplied. The price in bulk would no doubt be so fixed as to leave a small margin of profit to the supplying authority; but that would not cover the prospective increase of income it might expect to receive if it dealt directly with the water consumer. If London had to supply water in bulk at a fixed price for the present and future wants of so much of the five adjoining counties as lies within water London, the ratepayers of London would find themselves in a very different financial position from that of the eight companies or from that of a purchaser who took over the whole present system.
>
> "The conclusion we arrive at on this subject is that although severance of the works and sources of supply of the several companies and the division thereof between the Councils of the six counties within the limits of supply are not actually impracticable, they would be very difficult and highly undesirable. They will involve needless waste and expense and can only be carried out with constant friction in working details and at a greatly increased cost of management. All the advantages and economies of concentration and amalgamation will be sacrificed; it will become increasingly difficult to deal with future wants; and no compensating advantage will be secured."

The outside counties strongly object to the London County Council acquiring any rights of supply within their area, either by supplying the customers directly or by supplying in bulk, and that Council are pledged to effect a severance of the undertakings, if they are allowed to purchase them, between themselves and the five Metropolitan counties. No words can be stronger than those of the Royal Commission on these points, namely—

> "To the objections of these county authorities to being placed by purchase under the control of the London County Council we attach great weight, in consequence of the large proportion of the water-consuming population which is under their jurisdiction, and not under that of the London County Council. At the present time it is between one-fifth and one-fourth of the whole population supplied by the water companies. It is increasing at a very much more rapid rate than that of the population of London proper, and when the population of Water London reaches the large figure of 12,000,000, which we have mentioned, it is very possible that the population of this outer ring, for which the additional quantities of water are wanted, may fully equal that of the administrative County of London."

There is no doubt that London, inside and outside, is filling up very rapidly. But I think there is very little chance of an increase in the water supply being required for a long time in the inside London area, whilst, on the other hand, the outside area is growing very rapidly by leaps and bounds, and it will very shortly be quite equal to the area of the county of London.

It is all very well to speak about Bradford, Liverpool, and Birmingham, but those are not similar cases. I have no hesitation in saying that the feeling of the counties is so strong that they will oppose in every possible way any intention to place them under the London County Council. I am speaking in this matter with the authority of the various counties I have consulted. Why should the London County Council interfere with these other counties who consider that they are just as able to manage their own affairs as the London County Council? I think we have as good men on our county councils as are found on the London County Council. Any Minister who tries to put these districts under the London County Council will find himself very strongly opposed by the whole of them and the councils representing them. The question is not whether the London County Council perform their work well, or whether they manage their own affairs well or not; but the issue is that the London County Council are trying to increase their borders and are trying to obtain control of that which does not belong to them. The hon. Member for Battersea spoke about the Royal Commission's reference to the Water Trust, but that was only a suggestion. I think London ratepayers may fairly object to the rates of London alone being pledged as ultimate security for purchasing, managing, and developing undertakings in an area five times the size of the county of London. The Bill gives no power to outside local authorities to purchase water in bulk unless the London County Council assent, and if the outside bodies are not represented they are likely to be treated worse than they are at present by the water companies. I believe that if the Bill promised by the Government is brought in next year and a proper Water Trust is created, in a very short time everybody will be glad that this Bill has not been read a second time. I beg to move the rejection of this Bill.

Amendment proposed,

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Sir Frederick Dixon-Hartland.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

MR. WHITMORE (Chelsea) said the hon. Member for Uxbridge had gone into the reasons which actuated outside bodies in opposing this Bill. With regard to the particular proposals of the Bill the opposition of the outside areas might be pressed into a very small compass. Those who had the honour of being members of the London County Council must welcome the speech made by the hon. Member for Battersea. That speech was well reasoned and was considerate beyond doubt. He felt sure that every Member on the Ministerial side of the House recognised that this was a large question which ought to be approached without any display of petty party feeling or personalities. At the same time he was bound to say that a great part of the speech of the hon. Member for Battersea was in favour of purchase generally, but he submitted that that was not the real issue. The issue which the House had to consider was whether or not it should promote the settlement of this protracted controversy by reading the Bill a second time. This Bill was substantially the same measure as was presented last year, when it was rejected by a good majority. The main feature of the Bill was to enable the County Council to become the purchaser of the undertakings of the water companies. This proposal was condemned by the Royal Commission. It should be noted that if purchase by the County Council was sanctioned severance must subsequently ensue. The outside authorities would insist upon this, and severance meant that instead of one authority there would be five separate authorities. Therefore one of the great financial and administrative benefits which ought to be derived from purchase would at once be taken away. Severance was, moreover, explicitly condemned by the Royal Commission. Every one of the main proposals of this Bill had been emphatically condemned by a very powerful Commission. They were part of the Bill brought forward in this House last year which was then opposed by the President of the Local Government Board and rejected by a substantial majority. Why should the House read this Bill a second time, when they rejected it last year?

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): This is a new Parliament and a different Bill.

MR. WHITMORE said those were the main reasons why they were opposing the Bill. He could quite understand that hon. Members on both sides, wishing to bring this unfortunate controversy to an end, were rather tempted to let the Bill be read a second time, in the hope that it might be improved before a Select Committee. Was that the proper spirit in which to enter upon a matter of this kind? How could they have any assurance that all these things would be remedied in Committee? He did not know whether any hon. Gentlemen had tried to draw up the Instructions they would like to move in order to convert this Bill into one which they would like to see passed into law. It was impossible to draw up an Instruction which would compel the Select Committee to transform the Bill. Moreover, the scheme would be presented before the Committee by experienced officials in the most admirable way; and how in the world could outside authorities or others who did not approve of the Bill formulate a scheme which would have a chance of securing equal treatment with the scheme of the County Council? The fact was, this question had become too large to be settled by any Select Committee, however careful and influential. It must be dealt with by the Government, and the Government alone. He hoped that in opposing the Second Reading of this measure no one was doing it with a dilatory or obstructive motive. [Opposition cries of "Oh, oh."] He was glad to hear that note of dissent, but he was going to give his vote against the Second Reading, firstly because he did not think it was a proper scheme to settle this great question; and in the second place because he wished to get rid of this system of the London County Council introducing into this House year after year impossible measures. What he wanted was that next year the Government should deal finally and effectually with this great problem.

This was a matter of such magnitude and perplexity that it should be dealt with by the Government. That fact was more or less recognised by the Government of 1880, but unfortunately that Government was not allowed to bring the matter to a satisfactory conclusion. Had the question been dealt with then, all of them on both sides of the House, and the ratepayers as well, would have been happier to-day. Ever since that date successive Unionist Governments had recognised that the responsibility for the ultimate settlement of the water question in London rested with them and not with the municipal authorities. In the year 1892 the Royal Commission presided over by Lord Balfour of Burleigh made a very valuable Report, and the Commission presided over by Lord Llandaff also presented an admirable Report. Last year the London County Council introduced a Bill and the President of the Local Government Board on behalf of the Government opposed it, and it was rejected by a considerable majority. It was not, however, enough for them and the Government to go on opposing in that way. The question was now ripe for settlement, and in his judgment the history which he had briefly detailed showed that successive Governments had recognised that they had a responsibility and an obligation in the matter. They were not giving an absolutely negative vote, but they were waiting for a practical measure dealing with the question which would be introduced by the Government next year. He did not think that the treatment of the question by the Government presented insuperable difficulties. After all, there had been a great approximation of opinion on the matter. Personally, he had for years struggled against the idea of purchase—[Opposition cheers]—yes, he candidly admitted it—but his view had been shattered partly by the conclusions of the Royal Commission and partly by the general tendency of events. Now he was anxious to see the question settled on the general lines of the Report of the Royal Commission. Who could doubt that even the water companies must now be anxious to have such a settlement? Recent events had shown that they had not the moral power to enable them to carry on their business satisfactorily. Public opinon was unfair to the water companies, and they could not get the powers they required. In the interests of the water companies and their shareholders it was most desirable that this trouble should cease. There need be no great difficulty in the constitution of the new Water Board, and even the Progressive party on the London County Council had in many ways shown a sweet reasonableness, and he did not doubt that when once the Government showed itself in earnest the end of the long controversy would soon be at hand. He hoped he had not been detaining the House too long. In conclusion, he wished to say that he gave his vote unhesitatingly against the Second Reading of this Bill, and he did so not with any obstructive motive, but in the hope that next session the question would be settled permanently and satisfactorily by a measure introduced by the Government.

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): Everything depends upon what the Government are doing, and, indeed, something more than that—upon what they will do, because the two things, as the House knows on many important social questions, are not identical. If the arrangement as to the London water supply is going to remain in its present position, like old-age pensions, it will not be satisfactory. We would like to hear from the President of the Local Government Board what they are going to do, and form our own judgment as to what the Government are likely to do. I therefore at this stage, until we have heard what the Government are going to do, do not propose to go at any length into this matter. The hon. Member for Chelsea thought it worth while to incidentally attack the Government of 1880. [Cries of "No" and "The Opposition."] There were two Governments in 1880; there was one in which I was interested, and one of my earliest duties as Home Secretary was to preside over a Committee on this question. There has been a good deal of misrepresentation on this subject, and I will in a few sentences state what occurred on that occasion. I was chairman of that Committee, and received most valuable assistance in its conduct from the present Colonial Secretary—in fact, we together drew up the Report. Among the other members of the Committee were the present Lord Cross, the author of the proposal of the former Government of 1880, and the present Secretary of State for India. Well, that Committee had before it certain agreements upon which the early Government of 1880 had proposed to purchase the water companies, and there attended, by counsel, the Corporation of London and the Metropolitan Board of Works, who represented upon that occasion and for that purpose the consumers of London. Counsel implored the Committee not to sanction the agreements on the ground, so the Report showed—

> "that those two bodies have declared to your Committee their opinion that the terms contained in those agreements do not furnish a satisfactory or admissible basis of purchase, and in that opinion your Committee concur."

I do not think that that Committee or any other Committee could reject the opinion of the London Corporation and the Metropolitan Board of Works. The next paragraph of the Report, the author of which was the present Colonial Secretary, was as follows—

> "It is obvious, therefore, that the judgment of the public, as evidenced by the market price, coincided with the opinion of the Corporation of London and the Metropolitan Board of Works—namely, that the price stated in the agreements is greatly beyond the estimated value of the property."

The charge made against us was that, being urged by the representatives of the consumers of London not to purchase the water companies upon those terms, we agreed with the Corporation of London and the Metropolitan Board of Works, and we did not attempt to force the consumers of London to purchase their water at a price far beyond the market price of the commodity. That is the position which has been misrepresented ever since, and the remarkable part of it is that the very author of the proposal in the Conservative Government of 1880 was a member of the Committee. The present Secretary of State for India and Lord Cross never attempted to challenge that verdict of the Committee; they never pretended, after the examination of Mr. Smith, that it was possible to purchase the water companies upon the terms proposed. There was some suggestion that there should be some other terms and some other negotiations, but as to defending the proposal of the preceding Government there was no definite attempt whatever on the part of its author. To the general principle laid down by the Committee I adhere. The principle then laid down was that the water supply of London ought to be in the hands of some public body representing the consumers; and we suggested a body that might be constituted for that purpose, solely upon the ground that there was no municipal authority at that time in existence which adequately represented the community of the metropolis. There is such a body now. The principle of the Report was that as soon as such a body was constituted it should have control of the water supply, and to that principle I adhere. It was then discussed whether the best process was by purchase or by some independent supply. That question was left open; but it will be found in the Report that purchase for certain purposes was regarded as necessary. That is the simple history of the Committee of 1880. I believe that every one of the Committee's conclusions has been justified, and that to blame the Committee of 1880 for having refused to purchase the water of London at a price which was absolutely beyond its value at the time is entirely unwarrantable. I contend that the Committee of 1880 and the Government which acted upon its recommendations were wholly justified in the course they took on that occasion.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): Nobody will be inclined to blame the right hon. Gentleman for defending himself as one of those who took part in the deliberations which led to the conclusion arrived at in 1880. At the same time I may be forgiven for pointing out that, valuable as the right hon. Gentleman's observations are, they do not throw any particularly new light on the question we are now debating. In the first place, the contention put forward by my hon. friends behind me is not in any sense disposed of by the criticism of the right hon. Gentleman. What the hon. Member for Chelsea pointed out with irresistible force and unanswerable effect was that, had the suggestion which Mr. Cross, now Lord Cross, made in 1880 been adopted, enormous benefit would have accrued to the ratepayers of London. To tell us now that the representative bodies in London supported the right hon. Gentleman and his friends in their objections to the proposals of the water companies is not to dispose of our contention that if the scheme had been adopted great good would have followed, and we should not have been discussing the London water question to-day.

The moderate speech of the hon. Member for Battersea deserves all that has been said of it. But the hon. Member looked at the question from the point of view of the London County Council, and from the point of view of that part of London controlled by the London County Council only. I have read the Report of the Committee to which the right hon. Gentleman has referred. Of course I do not pretend to speak of it with the same knowledge as he possesses, who served on the Committee, but I confess it is difficult to realise that in the recommendation about the appointment of a municipal authority the Committee contemplated that that representative authority was to be representative of only a portion and not the whole of London. The hon. Member for Battersea and the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouth are a little to apt to talk of London as if it were necessarily limited in these matters to the area of the London County Council. The hon. Gentleman made the mistake of following too closely the suggestions of the Royal Commission. The recommendations of the Royal Commission in the main are those which my hon. friend supported, but it does not follow that the part of the Report to which he refers or other parts will be so closely followed as to do injustice to those parts of London to which he alluded as he seems to imagine.

Now it is my duty to say a few words in advising the House what course they should take upon the Bill which is under consideration. The hon. Member for Chelsea assured the House that he had no desire to delay or obstruct the progress of this important question. That is the last thing that any member of the Government, and especially the President of the Local Government Board, would be likely to desire to do if he could see his way fairly and honestly to take any other course. Various Committees and Commissions have sat upon the question, and they have made recommendations which varied in some degree. The last recommendation is to the effect that the controlling body dealing with the London water supply should be representative of the area which is to be controlled, and that the terms upon which the companies are to be acquired should be fair and reasonable terms, just alike to the shareholders of the companies and to those who will have to pay the cost of buying the undertakings. In what way does the Bill of the County Council meet the first of these recommendations—that of a representative body for the whole of the area concerned? Clause 44 of the London County Council Bill is a clause which proposes that the authority shall be a committee of the London County Council, and the Bill also gives the County Council a power to co-opt members of other representative bodies. Can it possibly be said that this is adopting the principle laid down in the Report of the Royal Commission? The Royal Commission make it perfectly plain. In Clause 140 of their Report they refer to the possible effect of the London County Council becoming the owners of the water supply upon the outside areas, and they say, among other things, we have come to the conclusion that the London County Council should not be the purchaser, and they give their reasons why; but those are not the only reasons they give, for in another clause there are other reasons which point to the same conclusion, and they go on to give those reasons. Is there any comparison between a representative authority appointed to represent the whole of what we may call Water London and a Committee of the London County Council with power, if they see fit to do so, to appoint outside representatives—a Committee which will be, after these outside Members have been co-opted, subject to the control of the Council itself? Can it be contended that there is any comparison whatever between the body proposed to be set up by this Bill and the body proposed by the Royal Commission? The hon. Member for Battersea may say quite frankly that there is no comparison, but that he agrees with the policy of the Bill, and does not agree with the recommendation of the Royal Commission; but that is a reason why we find it difficult to justify the suggestion that this Bill should now be read a second time. The differences are not mere differences of detail. The hon. Member for Battersea said that there was no precedent for a Trust, but I am not quite sure that the hon. Member and the hon. Gentleman who supported him are quite right in their views. What has been the most recent action of Parliament? Not so very long ago a very important water trust was formed in the Midlands in order to deal with the questions arising between different municipalities for the supply of water, and therefore I do not think the hon. Gentleman is justified in drawing the comparison in favour of London which he has.

Mr. JOHN BURNS: In that case they were all municipal bodies.

Mr. WALTER LONG: Moreover, the hon. Gentleman the Member for Battersea is not only trying to deal with what is apparent, but is also dipping into the future. He might be contented to deal with that part of the subject with which he is thoroughly acquainted, and he will allow me to suggest that in attempting to deal with any future body he is dealing with a matter the conditions of which must to a large extent be imaginary.

Now a great deal has been made in the course of this debate of the demands of London, but in dealing with this most difficult question it seems to me that the London County Council have almost wilfully ignored the evidence brought out before the two Commissions with regard to the population of London within and London without. As closely as they can be arrived at, the figures are these: the population of the administrative county of London in 1899 was 4,568,689, and if you add to that the increase in population since then to the present day you bring up the total to 4,658,000. The estimated number of persons supplied by the water companies throughout what we may call "Water London" is 6,172,326, showing that there are no less than 1,513,000 odd people outside the administrative county of London who are closely concerned with the water supply; so it is not quite fair to compare this question with those municipal instances given by the hon. Gentleman, which refer to entirely different circumstances; which refer to cases where municipalities having the control of their own water supply have, because it was advantageous to outside populations in their vicinity, entered into arrangements undertaking to supply them. This is an entirely different question, this is a case of supplying inside London and outside London; and we are asked to supplant the companies by an administrative body. If we are going to do this we must realise these figures, which are very remarkable, but there is an estimate made by the Royal Commission which is very striking as to the future population to be supplied in 1931. The Royal Commission estimates that the population to be supplied in 1931 will be 11,192,000, or an increase of 5,000,000 on the present number, of which nine-tenths will be outside the administrative county of London. It is absurd to suggest that in setting up a great body to control this most difficult question of the water supply of this great area that we are to ignore altogether not only the million and a half who already form part of "Water London," but who are outside the administrative county; but the evidence which shows that the growth in the future will be almost exclusively the outer parts of London, and that in a comparatively short time we shall have as great a population outside the administrative county but within "Water London" as we have in London. Yet we are asked deliberately to give the whole control to a body representative of a portion only of the area, and to exclude from control and administrative power and authority in connection with the treatment of this important question a probable population as great as the figures which I have just given to the House indicate.

I might also quote if the House has still any doubt as to the constitution of the authority one further paragraph from the Report of the Royal Commission. It is said that the suggestions of the Royal Commission are worthless suggestions, and that they cannot be given effect to in some respects; but nobody will ever deny or ever has denied that the Commission was composed of men well fitted for the work which they had to perform, and which they did perform with great credit to themselves, and I think we are bound to give very great weight to their recommendations. In regard to the question of the authority they say that in their opinion the Board should be a permanent and not a fluctuating one, consisting of not more than thirty members, selected on account of their business capacity and their knowledge of matters connected with water supply. The hon. Member for Battersea, I am sure, did not intend by his reference to the water directors to draw any invidious distinction as to the manner in which they discharged their duties, and the suggestion of the Royal Commission is one that ought to have met with his entire approval. The meaning of that suggestion was that the men in charge, as they will be, of these responsible and difficult duties, should be appointed in such a manner that they are not liable to be changed from time to time, and that they should be selected for the experience which they have had or ought to have had of a training fitting them for this difficult and peculiar work. I think that is a part of the Report which ought to meet with general approval, whatever may be thought of the claims of the London County Council. The Report then goes on to say that this Board should be so constituted as not to give any preponderance to any of the conflicting interests. Is that borne out by Clause 24 of the London County Council Bill? It is not a question of preponderating influence here, because if the proposals of the County Council were to pass into law the whole control over the water supply of both inner and outer London would be handed over to the power of the County Council. It is not only in connection with the administrative part of the proposal that it is obligatory upon us to criticise this measure; the purchase clause of the Bill is, I frankly admit, an improvement upon anything that has ever appeared in previous Bills, but it is certainly unfortunate when the London County Council made up their minds to improve this clause in the way they had done that they could not frankly adopt the language of the Report of the Royal Commission, because the recommendations of the Report with regard to the purchase question are very plain, and it is difficult for anybody to disagree with them. The hon. Member for Battersea quoted from the Housing of the Working Classes Act, but that has no analogy to the case, because the suggestion that was adopted in that case was in order to deal with owners of property who had abused their rights by not dealing with their property in the manner in which they ought to have done. The gentlemen who are to take the place of the water companies are to take the place of men who have done their business under very difficult conditions, and even supposing that it could be shown that they had made mistakes, it would not be just to treat them in the same way as owners who had deliberately allowed their property to fall into decay to the injury of the community. The Commissioners in their Report say—

> "The companies have upon the whole performed their duties to the public satisfactorily, and most of them have gone through periods of struggle and difficulty during which the shareholders ran considerable risks and received inadequate returns for their money. Some have now reached and others are approaching a more prosperous condition, by the help no doubt of great privileges which Parliament has given them. We see nothing which leads us to suppose that if these undertakings are compulsorily purchased for the public advantage, Parliament will sanction any exceptional provisions or depart from the terms of arbitration usual where the property of private persons is taken from them. We shall, therefore, assume that if the policy of purchase is adopted the price of the undertakings will be determined by an arbitration conducted on the lines of the Lands Clauses Act; although possibly, in view of the magnitude of the undertakings a different, constitution of the tribunal may be adopted."

From the drawing of the Bill it is obvious that the County Council is to be the sole authority which in future is to control all these matters, and the question which we have to ask ourselves is whether under all these circumstances it is possible to allow the Second Reading and let the Bill go to a Committee. Are we not to consider, in the absence of any declaration on the part of the promoters of their intentions, that when the Bill reaches Committee we shall lay ourselves open to the inevitable conclusion that the House has approved the principle.

There are other grounds upon which this Bill is recommended to the House. The hon. Member for Battersea said that the recent County Council Election had settled this question altogether, and that there is no doubt that the opinion of London had been in favour of the London County Council's proposal. I have had to follow very closely some of the elections of the London County Council, and I certainly do not agree with the hon. Member. Among other things there was a speech of Lord Rosebery's, a speech made on the 28th February last, in which he says—

> "What has been the result of the policy of the Moderate party? I am not denouncing them. But the policy of that party in support of the Government on this question of water—you have at last heard the crowning of it—you know the result, the splendid result, of an omnipotent Government—omnipotent in both Houses of Parliament, with its mandate loyally and generously renewed by the whole country—you know the result of their policy with regard to water. It is this. The companies have enjoined on every householder to put down expensive cisterns at his own expense; and at the outcry of universal indignation have had to withdraw it."

It is perfectly true that those recommendations were denounced, although they were made at the instigation of the Royal Commission, but that does not look as if Lord Rosebery was so satisfied with the policy of the Water Committee of the London County Council. If it were not unduly trespassing upon the patience of the House I might quote to them speeches made by hon. Gentlemen with reference to the action of the Local Government Board, but it is not worth while to go back to that, and while I do not seek to deny the importance of the County Council election, I submit the clear issue of whether the water companies should be bought by the County Council or by the municipalities of the whole of the area was obscured by the matter of regulations to such a large extent that it cannot be correctly stated as having been decided. The hon. Member for Battersea relies on the position of the London County Council as compared with other municipal authorities, but that point has already been dealt with by another hon. Member. In the earlier portion of his speech he frankly admitted that the question of the control of the water supply for London had been taken out of the level of the ordinary subjects; that the magnitude of the interests involved, and the amount of the capital required, had removed it from the position of an ordinary municipal question, and, therefore, it would be unfair to say more about that than this one word, that if the London County Council had seen their way to adopt, not every line and word, but the general tone, of the recommendations of the Royal Commission upon this subject this Bill would have been received as other municipal measures had been, and opposition would have disappeared, and because the London County Council had not seen fit to adopt that course they must not cast blame or responsibility on this House for opposing it. The House must have regard for the outside areas and therefore we adhere to the recommendations of the Royal Commission, and not to those of the London Connty Council.

What is the position to which we are brought? My hon. friend behind me, who seconded the rejection of this Bill, referred to the future area, and the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Monmouth said the whole of my hon. friend's speech consisted of references to the Government. That was not a fair description of his argument. He expressed the conviction that this matter would be dealt with by the Government. I quite agree that a complete change has come over public opinion in regard to this question, and anyone who has studied this question as I have will be struck by the fact that, whereas there was a great disagreement in the past as to purchase, there is now a general agreement as to the necessity for purchase, and, roughly speaking, as to the scheme or method by which the purchase should be carried out; there is also a general agreement that there ought not, if it could be avoided, be any further delay in dealing with it. I entirely agree with what has fallen from more than one hon. Gentleman in this debate, when they said it would be impossible for us to go on year after year advising the House to reject Bills of this description, and take no step ourselves. [Cries of "Six years ago."] Hon. Members who talk so glibly of "six years ago" forget that the Government appointed six years ago a Royal Commission, and they are not to be blamed for not legislating while the Commission was sitting. Or perhaps they think it would be better to legislate first and investigate afterwards. Nobody who has taken the trouble to look into the Report of the Royal Commission will deny that it contains a great deal of new matter, and therefore I say it is not quite reasonable to blame us for not having legislated before; but as the Government is now situated, it is absolutely impossible to bring in a Bill this session, because if we had intended to legislate we must have given notice last November.

I do not underrate the difficulty for a moment of dealing with this problem in a satisfactory manner. I have already informed a deputation that, being unable to recommend this Bill, I am engaged upon a measure based upon the recommendations of the Royal Commission, with an administrative body representative of the whole area of Water London, with full and proper representation to London itself. I shall spare no effort to make the measure a success, and to deal in a final and reasonable way with the water question of London. If I am able to secure the approval of my colleagues, which I do not doubt I shall be able to do, it will be my object and hope to bring in the Bill next session. That is the hope I entertain, and I may say that I confidently believe that we shall be able to settle the question, which has been before the inhabitants of London too long.

MR. ASQUITH (Fifeshire, E.): I think all of us welcome the right hon. Gentleman's acknowledgment that a great and complete change has come over this question. I am glad that he did not associate himself with the complaint which was made by one hon. Gentleman behind him in respect that the County

Council having promoted a similar measure to this, which was defeated last year, had the presumption again to submit that proposal to the House of Commons. A great deal has happened since this time last year. We have now a new Parliament and a new Government—a Government so new that the formal notices in connection with purchase could not be sent to the water companies in November—and, lastly, a new County Council. I have listened with interest and amusement to the speculations and hypotheses put forward from the opposite side of the House as to the true inward meaning of the recent County Council elections. Hon. and right hon. Gentlemen appear to be agreed that the election turned, not upon the question of purchase, but upon certain ill-advised regulations of the water companies put forward at the eleventh hour. I have in my hand here a leaflet. Sometimes leaflets are very useful things to refer to. This was issued for the purpose of the election by the London Municipal Society, and it is a manifesto, or at any rate a summary of arguments why the electors should vote for Moderate candidates. It says—

> "The new regulations proposed by the water companies would, if allowed, inflict an unjust expense upon the householder, and must be strenuously resisted."

How are they to be defeated?

> "By returning a Conservative majority to the London County Council."

Then as an illustration of how evil communications corrupt good manners, I find at the end of the leaflet this pregnant sentence—

> "Every vote given to the Progressives is a vote given to the water companies."

I confess that I am in a state of mental difficulty in this matter. This election turned upon the water regulations, but the Moderates, as they called themselves, if this leaflet is to be believed, were the most strenuous opponents of the water regulations. So also did the Progressives profess their opposition. Then what was the issue of the elections? The issue was not the water regulations, on which both sides professed to be in agreement, but whether the water companies should or should not be purchased by the London County Council. [Cries of "No."] I dare say that there are some hon. Members opposite who did not put that issue so plainly and candidly as I have stated to the electors; for while the Progressives were talking about water supply, hon. Members were talking about the war in South Africa. But the electors of London, who made so striking a demonstration less than a month ago as to their views of what municipal Government should be, were not thinking of South Africa; they were thinking primarily and mainly of the water supply. And that I believe is the only true and sufficient explanation of the enormous majority the Progressives received.

What is the question now before the House? The real question is—shall this matter, which has been delayed year after year, be again indefinitely hung up? It is exactly six years since the House of Commons, as then constituted, passed a Bill similar to the present Bill, promoted by the London County Council, for the purchase of the water companies. That Bill was closely investigated by Mr. Plunkett's Committee, and was passed, these two leading principles being expressly affirmed. First, that the companies ought to be purchased, and by the London County Council; and secondly that, in estimating the terms on which the purchase should be carried out, the ordinary system prevailing under the Lands Clauses Valuation Act, which gives, as everybody knows, an excessive bonus for compulsory purchase, ought not to be adopted. But for the accident of the dissolution of Parliament that Bill would have been passed into law, and we should already have entered upon the municipal administration of the water supply of London. What has happened in the interval? The right hon. Gentleman tells us by way of excuse for the delay that this Government, or rather the Government before this, appointed a Royal Commission, and he asks us in terms of indignation how the Government could be expected to legislate until they had inquired. In the opinion of many of us no inquiry was needed at all. The subject had been inquired into again and again, and all the materials for legislation were already in the possession of any Government which chose to make use of them. I am rather interested by the attitude the right hon. Gentleman has taken up towards Royal Commissions. I wonder if the right hon. Gentleman remembers how the Government of which he was a member passed an Agricultural Rating Act which vitally tampered with the whole of our system of rating, and then appointed a Royal Commission to inquire into the subject of local taxation? The right hon. Gentleman spoke of the Report of Lord Llandaff's Commission as if it were an inspired and sacrosanct document. We should be very glad if the Government would treat with anything like the same amount of respect the Reports of some other Commissions appointed by themselves. Less than a week ago the Under Secretary for the Home Department, whether in his private or official capacity was never explained, stated to the House—

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. JESSE COLLINGS, Birmingham, Bordesley): I said distinctly that I spoke in my private capacity.

MR. ASQUITH: We know that one member of the Government, in his private capacity then, treated with very scant respect the Report of a Commission appointed by his colleagues, none of whom had the courage to defend it. If the course which the County Council propose to take had been sanctioned six years ago, how much would have been saved! In the interval the companies have been coming to Parliament to obtain fresh capital powers; and the Sterilisation clauses, as they are called, to prevent for a term of years any increase in the amount to be paid for purchase by a public undertaking, have been running out. There have been in the interval two periods also, if not of panic, of a serious shortage in the London water supply, causing great inconvenience. I mention these facts to show that when we say this is a question which should no longer be hung up we are not speaking without some experience of the evil effects of delay in the past.

As to the terms of purchase, I do not think there is any difference of principle whatever. Both Mr. Plunkett's Committee and Lord Llandaff's Commission agreed that the ordinary bonus given in an arbitration under the Lands Clauses Act ought not to be applied in this case. The right hon. Gentleman did not tell us that when he quoted one passage in this Report on this very matter. He quoted the authority of the Commission that arbitration should take place under the Lands Clauses Act and not by the special form of arbitration proposed in the Bill. I think it would have been relevant to have added the passage which I am now going to quote to the House, and which evidently bears out what I have said. I will just quote one sentence—

> "In the present case it is improper for the arbitrator to give any compensation."

This statement thoroughly justifies that which is the essence of the clause, namely, that the arbitrator, in order to ascertain the purchase money, is to inquire into and consider all the circumstances of the case, and that no allowance is to be made in respect of compulsory purchase. I think I am justified in saying, therefore, that there is no substantial difference of principle on both these points —the urgency of purchase or the terms of purchase.

I come now to what is really the outstanding principle, the one which the right hon. Gentleman and those who supported him think is *the* question —that of the authority. In reference to that let me say at the outset, that there is, to my mind, a broad distinction between the purchasing authority and the management authority. It is not in the least degree necessary that the authority which carries out the process of purchase, and in whom in the first instance the estate of the undertakings of the water companies is vested, should either immediately or for all time to come be the authority which should exclusively or without extraneous infusion manage the undertakings transferred. I do not commit myself at this stage of the question to a determination of that matter. I will consider in a moment the objections which have been raised. But let me point out first of all that the County Council is undoubtedly at this moment not only the natural but the only possible purchasing authority. [Cries of "No."]

I should like to know of any other authority now in existence capable of carrying out the transaction. The County Council contains within the area which it represents 75 per cent. of the population which consumes the water supplied by the companies, and somewhere between 80 and 85 per cent. of the rateable value, and this is a most material element, because the companies derive their revenues upon the rateable value of the houses in which the consumers live. It cannot be suggested that there is any other authority in existence, or which could be called into existence, which could possibly be put in competition with the County Council as the purchasing authority for these undertakings. The right hon. Gentleman gave the House some speculative figures as to what is likely to be the increase of the population in 1931. I am not in a position to check the figures. They may be perfectly correct. We are not legislating at this moment for 1931. We are legislating for 1901. [" No, no."] I am sure that hon. Gentlemen will not misunderstand my meaning. Of course we have to look to the future as well as to the present; but the question is how best, most promptly, and most economically, to transfer these undertakings, which everyone says ought to be transferred, to a public authority. What is the authority to whom they ought to be transferred? What is to be their subsequent management? Above all, what are the provisions to be made for the distribution of water in the metropolitan and the extra-metropolitan area thirty years hence, is not a matter of urgency, and may be left to the future. The question of purchase, however, is urgent and ought to be settled at once. In making the County Council the purchasing authority, admitting at the same time that water will have to be supplied to the outlying areas, we are acting strictly according to Parliamentary precedent. Over and over again in the great municipalities of the country, like Manchester, Birmingham, and Glasgow, where the purchasing authority is the supplying authority, those outlying areas which come within the natural district of distribution obtain from the central body, either by purchase or in bulk or by special arrangement, so much supply as is necessary for their local purposes. If that has been done in the great provincial towns why should it not be done in London also? Can the Government not trust the body which represents the enormous preponderance of interest which has been specified to carry out by proper arrangements the distribution of the outlying supply to those other districts? [" No."] Why not, unless as the hon. Member for Battersea has said, there is a dose of original sin in the composition of the County Council which prevents this House from entrusting to it powers which it entrusts, without reserve or suspicion, to all the other municipal bodies?

What does the Royal Commission propose? It proposes to constitute a water board of thirty members, in which the County Council should only be represented by ten members—in other words, the body which has three-fourths of the population and four-fifths of the rateable value is to have one-third of the representation on the authority to manage the water supply. I do not like to use hard language about the recommendations of a Royal Commission, but I think that is a grotesque proposal, and, as my hon. friend has already pointed out, it flies in the face of every proposal hitherto made, and in particular of the proposal, I will not say of the late Government, but of the Government which was in office before the right hon. Gentleman came to the Local Government Board, and that is the dividing line in this matter. It is entirely contrary to the proposal of the late Government, which was put forward by Lord James in 1896, who proposed that out of a water board of thirty the County Council should have eighteen members, on the express ground that London had a predominant interest and a predominant claim to representation. The Royal Commission has told us it would not trust those matters to a fluctuating body. Why not? All our municipal corporations are fluctuating; the House of Commons is a fluctuating body, and every representative institution in the country which is recruited from time to time by election is fluctuating. The whole advantage which has been found by experience in the past from the result of transferring large undertakings like gas or water from private or corporate management to municipal management has consisted in the fact that you have a fluctuating body, a body of managers responsive to the wishes and appreciative of the interests of those whom they represent, and who, if they disregard those wishes and interests, can be replaced by others. I therefore entirely demur to the notion that you are going to take away from the directors, for whom we have the highest respect, and many of whom are most excellent business men, the management of those companies to hand it over to what apparently is to be a body of experts responsible to the Local Government Board. I do not hesitate to say that I would rather see the water supply of London left in its present position than see a solution of it like that; and I cannot express my condemnation of the suggestion in stronger language than that.

I think I have satisfactorily shown to the House, first of all, that there is universal agreement as to the necessity of the prompt transfer of the companies to a public authority; secondly, that there is no substantial difference of principle as to the terms on which the transfer should take place; thirdly, that both in the nature of the particular case, and on the precedents which have been cited to us in the Parliamentary procedure of the past, the County Council is the natural body, and indeed the necessary body, to whom the transfer should be made; fourthly, that the arrangements for the management and distribution among the various subordinate localities and interests is a matter of detail which can be arranged; and, lastly, that it is all-important in a matter of this kind that the ultimate authority, whether for purchase or management, should be exactly what the Commission said it should not be—that is, a fluctuating and responsible body. If all these propositions are true, what is the reason for rejecting the Bill? Why is the Bill not to go before a Committee upstairs? I say in the most direct and explicit terms possible that, if this Bill is rejected, and if its details are not to be examined by a Committee, the responsibility will rest entirely on the shoulders of the Government. The Government appear to be prepared to accept that responsibility. It is through their action that this question, which ought to have been settled six years ago, has been hung up until to-day. They have had in their hands the Report of this very Commission, which has been the pretext for delay for fifteen months, and up to this moment we have only vague assurances that twelve months hence the House may be in possession of their proposals. In the meantime London is to wait; and a question on the solution of which the health and comfort of six millions of people depend, and which is one of the most vital of social and economic wants, is to remain in its present highly unsatisfactory state. If hon. Members opposite oppose the motion they will associate themselves in a responsibility which at present rests on the shoulders of the Government.

*MR. HARRY SAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Limehouse) said he had the honour of representing a constituency which had had a great deal of experience upon this water question. He ventured to say that the ideas put forward by the hon. Member for Battersea in regard to the defeat of the Moderates at the last County Council Election were somewhat erroneous. If it were true that London suffered so much from this want of water, in what part would it have been felt more than in the East End and in the Tower Hamlets? What was their answer to this question? Why, it was the only part of London where the Conservatives won two seats at the County Council Election. They had been told that if this matter was not settled to-day the onus would fall upon His Majesty's Government. He had never expressed or felt any affection for the water companies, and he did not think they had carried out their duties as well as they might have done, for they had inflicted considerable hardship upon the water consumers of London. The people of London had been forced by the Radical party to wait twenty-one years for a solution of this question, and he thought they would be willing to wait one year more in order to have it carried out on a sound and proper basis. He did not think East London had much trust in the London County Council upon this water question. The East London Water Company came down to this House and asked for additional storage powers, and they told the House that unless they got those powers they could not be relied upon to give a proper water supply. What was the result? At the initiative of the Radical members of the London County Council that Bill was thrown out and that action ultimately resulted in the serious water famine in the East End of London. He welcomed the declaration which had been made by the President of the Local Government Board, for he recognised in it the absolute determination of the Government to pass a Bill next session which would once and for all settle this question upon a sound commercial basis. If the London County Council had really cared to settle this question they could have done it in this Parliament by bringing in a perfectly straightforward and honest Bill carrying out the wishes of the Royal Commission, and constituting a water authority which would be representative not only of London but of all the outside areas concerned. It was now twenty-one years since Mr. Cross's Bill was brought in, and the ratepayers of London were entitled to say that whatever extra amount beyond £33,000,000 had to be paid for these undertakings the Radical party were responsible for. In supporting the Government upon this question he contended that he was carrying out the wishes of his constituents.

DR. MACNAMARA said that when he looked into the history of this and the last Government he had the greatest possible difficulty in believing that anything was intended in regard to this question but delay. On the 22nd of February, 1895, a Bill to purchase the London water companies passed its Second Reading. In 1896, after the General Election, that suspended Bill was reintroduced, but the House threw it out because the Government promised to bring in a Bill the next year. He thought Lord James's Bill was a measure which was never intended to pass. It was a pure abortion, and the history of this question suggested to him that it would be in the same position next year. The Duke of Richmond's Commission in 1869 unanimously recommended that the control of the water supply should be under public authorities.

The hon. Member for Uxbridge had stated that there was no mandate at the last County Council Election for the purchase of the water companies. He quoted from a leaflet issued by a joint committee of the London Municipal Society and the metropolitan division of the National Union of Conservative Associations. This leaflet set forth that "the Conservative policy is purchase and management of the supply by a single public authority," and called upon the members to vote for the Conservative candidate. There was nothing in that about the water regulations, for it was a specific request to vote for the Conservative candidates in order to secure purchase and management of the water supply by a single public authority. But why should they wait until 1902 for the settlement? He believed that the intention of the opponents of this measure was to secure delay which would make matters worse for the ratepayers and better for the water company shareholders. The County Council had substantially modified its purchase clause, and the only outstanding question was, who should buy the water companies out and control the future supply. The Government, he understood, had committed itself in general terms to the proposal of the Royal Commission—namely, that there should be a composite trust of thirty persons, ten from the London County Council, twelve from neighbouring county councils, four from the Thames Conservancy, two from the Lee Conservancy, and two from the Local Government Board. From the point of view of population London ought to have twenty-one representatives, and from the point of view of rateable value London was entitled to twenty-three members of that Board, or at least three-fourths. He emphatically asserted that that was not a scheme for the representation of the ratepayers, and he could not understand how anyone could seriously propose to give rating powers to a body so constituted.

In regard to the outside towns, he sympathised with the desire to give them some representation. He had, however, written to many large provincial corporations, and he found that in no single case where they sold water to an urban or rural district did they permit them to have any representation on the water authority. Cardiff and Glasgow sold water to outside municipal areas and permitted no representation. The Bradford Corporation supplied water to 231,000 inside its area and 205,000 outside, and those outside had no representation. In Bolton they had 120,000 persons inside the area and 130,000 outside, and yet those people outside were not permitted to have any representation. What they did there was to charge them a higher rate instead of giving them representation. He was rather glad to see this tender solicitude for the recommendations of the Royal Commissions. The problem was one of extreme urgency, and the Bill before the House would give them at least twelve months start. The Government policy was one of delay, and as a London Member he emphatically protested against that policy, because it meant more East End water famines and heavier financial burdens upon the ratepayers. Every five years delay meant that the ratepayers would have to pay £2,000,000 more, and they could scarcely expect the promised Government measure to come into operation before the 1906 valuation. If the Bill of 1895 had passed, London ratepayers would have been saved £2,000,000. Last Wednesday the Under Secretary for the Home Department volunteered the statement that he had but a poor opinion of the Londoner. He did not know whether that arose from the fact that out of the sixty-two hon. Members representing London fifty of them sat on the Ministerial side. If the Government assisted to wreck the Second Reading of this Bill he felt sure that Londoners would give the right hon. Gentleman good reason to alter his opinion of them at the next election. As a mere Radical partisan he might view with equanimity the throwing out of this Bill if the issues were not so serious. The issues involved were the health and the comfort of millions of people, and he appealed to the House and to the Government to give the Bill a Second Reading.

MR. PEEL (Manchester, S.) said that as one of the two Members of the London County Council who sat on the Ministerial Benches, and as one of the few remnants of the Moderate party which was left on the shore at the last election, he thought he was entitled to say something in regard to the mandate which had been spoken of, and in reference to the causes of the great Progressive majority. Before this election came on the party opposite were very melancholy, but at the last moment those water regulations came upon them and wrecked the Moderate chances entirely. It was very easy to put various interpretations on that mandate. So far as the ordinary ratepayers of London were concerned, all they wanted was plenty of water at as cheap a rate as possible, and if they got this they did not care twopence what the authority was. The electors had been persuaded by a number of ingenious persons that the only way to achieve this was to purchase the water companies, and that the purchasing body should be the London County Council. He wished to be perfectly fair to the water companies, but anything more inept, more fatuous than their bringing out their regulations within a fortnight of the County Council election the tongue of man could hardly describe.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, W.): It was not we who fixed the date for bringing out the regulations.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Who do you mean by "we"?

COLONEL LOCKWOOD: I am a water company director.

MR. PEEL said he would accept the statement of his hon. and gallant friend, but he hoped the engineering of the water companies would turn out better than their electioneering. In regard to Manchester, it was true that they supplied water in bulk to twenty-four townships outside their area, but the difference between the case of Manchester and London was that the districts outside London did not want to be supplied in that way, and they wanted representation on the Water Board. If the persons to be supplied lived within the area, then the London County Council ought to control that supply. The outside district around London desired representation, and that being so, they were compelled to ask for an authority which was somewhat wider than the London County Council. He hoped the offer of the President of the Local Government Board in regard to this matter was not a hypothetical one, but that it was one which he would be able to carry out next session. In regard to the suggestion made by the Royal Commission, he was of the opinion that London must have a far larger representation than ten. As one engaged in administrative work in the County of London, for many reasons he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would bring in legislation next year which would solve this problem.

SIR JAMES KITSON (Yorkshire, W.R., Colne Valley) said he was a Member of the Committee which considered the County Council Bill in 1885, and he wished to say a word or two upon this measure. He wished to express his sorrow for London having now to bear the excessive charge caused by the delay since 1895, and the argument of delay now put forward was intended to secure for the companies an additional value. From the point of view of the local authority owning its own water supply, the whole of the points which had been raised by the President of the Local Government Board were dealt with in the city of Leeds. The City Corporation of Leeds supplied outside authorities with water in bulk, and they had no representation on the Water Committee. Politics did not enter into the question of water supply in Leeds, for there both Liberals and Conservatives joined in promoting any legislation or expenditure which would secure a pure and ample water supply. Leeds was in the first instance supplied by a private water company, but it was bought by the City Corporation, and they had since spent over £2,000,000 in securing a water supply from the moorlands around Harrogate. The result of that expenditure was that the city of Leeds now had a revenue of £128,000 a year from its water supply; the expenditure was £28,000, interest £60,000 on the two millions, which left a profit of £40,000 a year, which was devoted to the repayment of the capital. The consequence was that this great local authority, which now owned its own water supply, was enabled to come to Parliament to ask for powers which a company could not acquire. A company for private gain would not be permitted to do what Leeds had done, for it obtained two sessions ago power to buy the whole of the lands within its water areas. The consequence was that it was able to protect the health of the inhabitants of the city by having a proper system of drainage. He supported the Second Reading of this Bill, because he believed it was in the interests of a great population which was now placed in a very inferior position to the great cities of the north of England.

MR. GRAY (West Ham, N.) said it had been stated that the London ratepayers were strongly in favour of this Bill. He would have been very much surprised to hear that they were not in favour of it, because it would be an admirable bargain for London at the cost of the inhabitants of Greater London. In West Ham they looked upon it as a measure to destroy eight monopolies and to set up one greater monopoly. Under this Bill 320,000 people in West Ham, without any voice in the management of this great concern, would be compelled to take their water upon whatever terms the London County Council cared to dictate. London was to reap a large profit out of this undertaking, but at whose cost? It was to be accomplished at the cost of those consumers in the outside areas. He welcomed the assurance that had been given by the President of the Local Government Board, and he should vote against the Bill on the clear understanding that next session the Government would pass through Parliament a measure for dealing with the water supply of greater London. He should vote against the Bill under the clear belief that next session they would have a measure dealing with this question and providing a water board upon which the outer districts would have equal representation.

MR. HOLLAND (Yorkshire, W.R., Rotherham) remarked that this was a measure which he should have the greatest pleasure in voting for. He was surprised at the attitude taken up by the Member for South Manchester, for if he consulted his own constituents in the city of Manchester he would find that there the principle of this Bill had been carried out with great success. In the great city of Manchester, under the management of the council, the water supply was better in quality and quantity and cheaper than it had ever been before. To those familiar with the working of provincial councils it did seem strange that the London County Council, which was the greatest council of them all, should be kept in apron strings to a degree which was unknown in any other part of the country.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) said that before the debate closed he wished to point out that upon this question they were having one of the most shocking examples of the mismanagement of public business that they had ever experienced. Instead of allowing the question to be dealt with by this Bill the Government had given a clumsy promise that they would take the question up next year. There could be no serious intention on the part of the Government of fulfilling that promise, and no doubt the farce of 1896 would be reacted. It had been stated that by introducing this Bill the promoters were wasting the time of the House, but they had just got a promise from the Government that they would do all they could to waste more time in connection with this subject next year. The hon. Member for Chelsea had made a most candid speech, and he had stated that he and those who acted with him were in favour more of private enterprise than public control. There seemed to be a sort of conspiracy amongst those in favour of private enterprise to defeat this great public Bill. The water directors would no doubt defeat this Bill, as they defeated the Bill of 1895. One party would be shepherded into one lobby by the directors and shareholders of these companies, while the other party would bring their friends and supporters into the other lobby, where their votes would be given in the public interest rather than in that of private enterprise. This was a gigantic question. They, in London, did not enjoy one of the franchises which were the possession of the people in the majority of the other towns and cities in the kingdom — water, gas, telephones, means of communication, etc. Everything in London was in the hands of the private monopolists. There was no subject on which there was such keen feeling on the part of the people of London; and it was these old companies that made London life almost intolerable. [Cries of "Divide" and laughter.] Hon. Members might smile at his attempts to interest the House on this question, but if the House would not be interested, the people of London outside were extremely interested, and thought the time had come when the reign of the monopolists should be put an end to. He had read a most interesting note in *The Times* the day before. It was a little quotation from the proceedings of the House of Commons on 25th March, 1801, and was as follows—"If any more Jobs are attempted to be forced through the House of Commons an hon. Gentleman intends to move that they be referred to the Committee on the Scarcity." He could not but think that when the editor of *The Times* saw the Water Bill on the Order-book for that day, he had inserted that note as a hint in regard to their proceedings. [Cries of "Divide."] In conclusion, he did not think he asked too much when he expressed a hope that no director or shareholder, or any one who had got a personal interest in these water companies, would take any part in the division.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 176; Noes, 253. (Division List No. 106.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Allen, C. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Asher, Alexander
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Austin, Sir John
Barlow, John Emmott
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bell, Richard
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Boyle, James
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, Geo. M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carew, James Laurence
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Dewar, J. A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Donelan, Capt. A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Chas. M. (Lanark)

Duffy, William J.
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, John Edward
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby, Co.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, RtHn. HerbertJohn
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
Hardie, J. Keir (MerthyrTydvil
Harwood, George
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kinloch, Sir John Geo. Smyth
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Leng, Sir John

Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mansfield, Horece Rendall
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. L, (Carmarthen)
Morgan, E. J. C.)Devonport)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
C'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
Partington, Oswald
Pemberton, John S. G.
Philipps, John Wynford
Pickard, Benjamin
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, JohnE. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)

Reid, SirR. Threshie (Dumfries
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, CaptJohn(Forfarshire
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C. R(North'nts
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Abel(Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Alfred(Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, DavidAlfred(Merth'r
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings
Thompson, E. C. (Monaghan, N
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, JohnLawson(Leeds, S.
Warner, ThomasCourtenayT.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George(York, W. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid
Wilson. Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wodehouse, Hn. Armine(Essex
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. John Burns and Mr. Holland.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Aird, Sir John
Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther, H. T.
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Col. James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt. Hon G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Barry, Sir F. T. (Windsor)
Bathurst, Hon. Allen B.
Beach, Rt. Hn. SirM. H. (Bristol
Beach, Rt. Hon. W. W. B. (Hants
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James

Blundell, Col. Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Boulnois, Edmund
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Midd'x)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brown, Alex. H. (Shropshire)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm
Chamberlain, J Austen (Worc'r
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron(Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)

Cox, Irwin EdwardBainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davies, SirHoratioD(Chatham
Dewar, T. R. (T'rH'mets, S. Geo
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale, Sir JosephCockfield
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. AilwynEdward
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, SirRobertPenrose-

Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (St. Albans)
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Maj Evans-(Tr H'mlets
Gore, Hon. F. S. Osmsby-
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Sir E W (B'ry S Edm'nds
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (Mid'x
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'rd
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynemo'th
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Heath, James (Staffords. N. W.)
Heaton, John Henniker
Henderson, Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, Robert Trotter
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampste'd
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J. F (Sheffield, Brightside
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horner, Frederick William
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, Capt J (Kent, Facersh.
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, Arthur H (Hants., Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N.S.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn Walter (Bristol, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Lowther, Rt. Hon. J. (Kent)
Lowther, Rt Hn J W (Cum. Penr.
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh W
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm. Ian
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn W. F.
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, Jno. Throgmorton
Milton, Viscount
Milward, Colonel Victor
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, David J. (Walthamstw
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Philip A.
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (Bute
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Parker, Gilbert
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robert Wellesley
Penn, John
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell. Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green)
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, H. (Hackney)
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Round, James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alex.
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, E.)
Smith, H C (North'mb, Tyneside
Smith, James P. (Lanarks.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxford U.
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir. C. E. H (Shef'ld
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir W. H.
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Welby, Lt.-Col. A C E (Taunton
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John L.
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-u.-Lyne)
Wilson, A. S. (Yorks, E.R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Commander (Berks, E.

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Frederick Dixon-Hartland and Mr. Whitmore.

Words added:—

Main Question, as amended, put, and agreed to.

Second Reading put off for six months.

METROPOLITAN WATER COMPANIES (AMENDMENT OF ACTS) BILL.

(BY ORDER.)

Read a second time, and committed.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 2).

Bill to confirm certain Provisional rders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Abertillery, Aspull, Briton Ferry, Cannock, Ebbw Vale, Faversham, Llandaff, and Dinas Powis, Llangollen, Neath (Borough), and Tredegar, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Gerald Balfour and Mr. Austen Chamberlain.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 2) BILL.

"To confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Abertillery, Aspull, Briton Ferry, Cannock, Ebbw Vale, Faversham, Llandaff and Dinas Powis, Llangollen, Neath (Borough), and Tredegar," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 120.]

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 3).

Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Birstall, Cheshunt, Dorchester, Felling, Frome, Lichfield, Mitcham, New Hunstanton, Northfleet, and Skipton, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Gerald Balfour and Mr. Austen Chamberlain.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 3) BILL.

"To confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Birstall, Cheshunt, Dorchester, Felling, Frome, Lichfield, Mitcham, New Hunstanton, Northfleet, and Skipton," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 121.]

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 4).

Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Atherton, Benwell and Fenham, Beverley, Burgess Hill, Chesham, East Cowes, Hindley, Honley, Standish-with-Langtree, and Stratford-upon-Avon, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Gerald Balfour and Mr. Austen Chamberlain.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 4) BILL.

"To confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Atherton, Benwell, and Fenham, Beverley, Burgess Hill, Chesham, East Cowes, Hindley, Honley, Standish-with-Langtree, and Stratford-upon-Avon," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 122.]

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

London Underground Railways.—That they have appointed a Committee of Five Lords to join with a Committee of this House to consider and report:—

1. Whether the lines of route for underground railways in and near London, proposed by Bills which have been or may be introduced during the present Session, are best calculated to afford facilities for present and probable future traffic; and, if not, what modifications of those lines of route are desirable;
2. What special provision, if any, should be made for the protection of the owners, lessees, and occupiers of properties adjacent to underground railways from possible damage and annoyance;
3. What special terms and conditions, if any, as to construction and working should be imposed upon the promoters;
4. Whether any, and which, of the schemes proposed by the said Bills should not be proceeded with during the present session;

and request this House to appoint an equal number of its Members to be joined with the said Lords.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to enable Henry Diaper and Company of Liverpool to issue transferable certificates and warrants for the delivery of goods; and for other purposes." Henry Diaper and Company (Delivery Warrants) Bill [Lords].

HENRY DIAPER AND COMPANY DELIVERY WARRANTS) BILL [Lords].

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

BRISTOL CORPORATION (DOCKS AND RAILWAYS, ETC.) BILL [Lords].

Copy ordered, "of the Report of the Board of Trade on the Bristol Corporation (Docks and Railways, etc.) Bill [Lords]."—(*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*)

GLASGOW AND SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY BILL.

Copy ordered, "of the Report of the Board of Trade on the Glasgow and South Western Railway Bill."—(*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*)

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY BILL.

Copy ordered, "of the Report of the Board of Trade on the North Eastern Railway Bill."—(*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*)

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 1) BILL.

Copy ordered, "of Memorandum stating the nature of the Proposals contained in the Provisional Orders included in the Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill."—(*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*)

STANDING ORDERS.

Resolutions reported from the Committee:—

1. "That, in the case of the Kingscourt, Keady, and Armagh Railway Bill, Petition of the 'Meath County Council' for dispensing with Standing Order 129 in the case of their Petition against the Bill, the said Standing Order ought to be dispensed with."

2. "That, in the case of the Biggleswade Water Board, Petition for leave to deposit a Petition for Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with:—That the parties be permitted to deposit their Petition for a Bill."

3. "That, in the case of the Watford and District Tramways Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with:—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, provided that Tramway No. 7, and so much of Tramway ways Nos. 1, 10, and 11 as are within the district of the Watford Rural District Council be struck out of the Bill:—That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."

4. "That, in the case of the Wales and Laughton Railway, Petition for leave to deposit a Petition for Bill, the Standing Orders ought not to be dispensed with."

5. "That, in the case of the Shannon Water and Electric Power Bill, Petition of 'Robert John Quaile and Augusta Anderson' for dispensing with Standing Order 129 in the case of their Petition against the Bill, the said Standing Order ought not to be dispensed with."

First Three Resolutions agreed to.

Report to lie upon the Table.

LONDON, TILBURY, AND SOUTHEND RAILWAY BILL.

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

HARTLEPOOLS GAS AND WATER TRANSFER BILL.

Reported [Preamble not proved]; Report to lie upon the Table.

PETITIONS.

AGRICULTURAL RATES ACT, 1896.

Petition from Fife, against re-enactment; to lie upon the Table.

BEER BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Ingleby Greenhow; Darlington; Cowbridge; Ramsholt; Neyland; Milford; Acton; Haverfordwest; Tenby; Saundersfoot; Fishguard; Penally; Blymhill; Brigg; Sudbury; Milborne St. Andrews; Dullingham; and Narberth; to lie upon the Table.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE.

Petition from Frodsham, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

COAL MINES (EMPLOYMENT) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Leven; Denby; Greasborough; Markham Colliery; Primrose Main; Barnsley Main; Hickleton; Kilburn; Redding; B. Winning; Cliff; Moresby; Harrington; Fords Colliery; Skelton Park; Kilton; Lazenby; and Eston; to lie upon the Table.

COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGE TO CROPS BILL.

Petition from Fife, in favour, to lie upon the Table.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).

Petitions for alteration of Law, from Mexborough; Horwich; and Tynemouth; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION BILL.

Petition from Peterborough, against; to lie upon the Table.

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Leven; Denby; Markham Colliery; Greasborough; B. Winning; Kilton; Cliff; Barnsley; Primrose Main; Hickleton; Kilburn; Redding; Eston; Lazenby; Skelton Park; Harrington; Moresby; and Ford's Colliery; to lie upon the Table.

OFFICERS OF THE INDIAN STAFF CORPS.

Petitions for redress of grievances, from Alexander Lee; A. Skeen; H. L. Richardson; M. E. L. Bruce; and Colin Finch; to lie upon the Table.

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.

Petition from Aberystwyth, for extension to women; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Holt; and Melton Constable; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions in favour, from West Thorney; Amlwch; Penyfarnedd; Holyhead; Llangefni; Llanfairpwllgwyagyll; Beaumaris; Bodedern; Menai Bridge; Llandegfan; Linlithgowshire; Hull (two); Aspull; Sneinton; Shipley; Kidder minster; Lancaster; Christchurch; Boscombe; Liverpool; Arundel; Saffron Walden; Fenton (two); Blackburn (two); Brynamman; Gwynfe; Llangadock; Blackheath; Penygroes; Felmfoel; Hunslet; Shipley; Wigan; Porthleven; Goxhill; Prestwich; Berwick-upon-Tweed; Brysley; Barnoldby; Ashby; Stallingborough; Bristol; Old Bolingbroke; Heanor (two); Langley Mill; Riddings; Codnor (four); Penryn; Pendleton; Retford; Sandown; Long Eaton; Marlpool; Ancoats; London; Chester; Newport Pagnell; Doncaster; Scunthorpe; Macclesfield; South Ferriby; and Wolverton; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Finstown; Kirknewton (two); Whitburn; Edinburgh; Leith (two); Nesting (two); Paisley; St. Monance; Bathgate; Fauldhouse; Cullen (two); Barrhead; Newtonmore; Grangemouth; Laurence Kirk; Dundonald; Melrose; and Berwick-upon-Tweed; to lie upon the Table.

SOVEREIGN'S OATH ON ACCESSION BILL.

Petition from Leven, against; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

Copy presented, of Annual Reports of Proceedings under the Diseases of Animals Acts, etc., the Markets and Fairs (Weighing of Cattle) Acts, for the year 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

MINES AND QUARRIES.

Copy presented, of Reports of His Majesty's Inspectors of Mines for the year 1900 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

MEDICAL COUNCILS.

Accounts presented, for 1900 of the General Medical Council and Branch Councils, and of the Dental Registration Fund [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

INEBRIATES ACTS, 1879 TO 1899 (RULES FOR RETREATS).

Copy presented, of Rules for Retreats licensed under the Inebriates Acts, 1879 to 1899, dated 28th February, 1901, approved by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in substitution for the Rules dated 18th October, 1900 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 99.]

LAND TRANSFER ACT, 1897.

Copy presented, of Order in Council of 9th March, 1901, further postponing the operation of the Land Transfer Order in Council of 18th July, 1898, as regards the City of London, until the 1st January, 1902 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

SPRING ASSIZES ACT, 1879.

Copies presented, of Two Orders in Council of 9th March, 1901, relating to Spring Assize Counties, Nos. 2 and 3 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.

Return ordered, "giving populations of the cities of Belfast, Londonderry, Cork, Waterford, and Limerick; number of permanent police force in each city; number of free constables allowed to each city; number of constables paid for by each city; amount paid by each of said cities during past year for extra police at exceptional periods during the year; amount paid by each of said cities for the ordinary police force last year."—(*Mr. O'Doherty.*)

QUESTIONS.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—THE LINDLEY SURRENDER.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state who are the persons who raised the white flags named in the inquiry into the case of Colonel Spragge.

The SECRETARY of STATE for WAR (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford): I think, perhaps, the House will excuse my giving the names, especially as in one case, owing to the person affected being wounded, there has been a delay in hearing his explanation.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE: Can the right hon. Gentleman say whether any proceedings have been taken against them or any punishment inflicted?

Mr. BRODRICK: Yes, proceedings were taken.

Mr. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton): Has any punishment been inflicted?

[No answer was given.]

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF ANNEXED REPUBLICS—BEEWAARPLAATZEN.

Mr. M'DERMOTT (Kilkenny, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has yet received a report from Sir David Barbour on the financial condition of the Transvaal and of the Orange River Colony; and, if so, whether it includes an estimate of the value of the Beewaarplaatzen; whether His Majesty's Government are aware that the Government of the late South African Republic has decided to sell the mining rights in this property by public auction, the proceeds to be applied to the general revenue of the Republic; and whether His Majesty's Government intend to dispose of those rights by a similar process or by allowing the present mine owners to acquire them at a valuation.

The SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.): Sir David Barbour has not yet completed his investigation, and until he has done so I cannot publish any communication from him. He has been specially asked to report on the subject of the Beewaarplaatzen.

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GENERAL BOTHA.

Mr. BLACK (Banffshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he expects that his or any other Government Department will receive from Lord Kitchener a written Report of his Lordships conversation with General Botha upon 28th ultimo; and whether this Report, with any observations or recommendation which may accompany it, will be published in its entirety as soon as received, even although the House should not be then in session.

Mr. BRODRICK: I hope to receive a despatch from Lord Kitchener, and will immediately on its receipt consider as to its publication. It is not customary to give a pledge in advance as to despatches not yet received.

CAPE FIELD ARTILLERY VOLUNTEERS.

Mr. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): beg to ask the Secretary of State for Wa whether any arrangements have ye been made to relieve the Cape Field Artillery Volunteers, who have been on active service in South Africa since the commencement of the war.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY to the WAR OFFICE (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton): The arrangements relating to the Cape Field Artillery Volunteers are made by the Cape Government. I am not therefore in a position to reply to the hon. Member.

ALLEGED BRITISH ARMY ENLISTMENTS IN SILESIA.

Mr. J. F. X. O'BRIEN (Cork): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he has any official information to the effect that in the early days of this month the police commissioner of Zittau, in Saxony, warned the public against attempts made by two English agents to enlist recruits in Silesia for the English Army in the Transvaal and requested that immediate notice of their appearance in any district should be given at the nearest police station; and that 650 young men, who had been enlisted for the English Army, and were on their way from Southern Italy to Antwerp and Liverpool, were stopped by the authorities at the Milan Railway Station.

Lord STANLEY: No, Sir.

IMPERIAL YEOMANRY TRAINING.

Captain BAGOT (Westmoreland, Kendal): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state what is the total number of officers and men of the Imperial Yeomanry sent to South Africa, and what is the number of officers and men out of that total who had received one or more trainings with a Yeomanry regiment before joining the Imperial Yeomanry; and whether the Colonial mounted contingents are trained as mounted infantry or as cavalry before leaving the colonies.

Mr. BRODRICK: 10,717 officers and men were despatched with the original force and 13,702 have been already sent of the force recently raised. It is not possible to give the information required by the second portion of the question, but I will inquire if the Yeomanry regiments can furnish it. It is not possible to say with accuracy how the Colonial contingents were trained, but I believe there was no general training in cavalry tactics.

YEOMANRY ESTABLISHMENT.

Captain BAGOT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War, in the event of it being found impossible to bring an existing regiment of Yeomanry up to the required strength of four squadrons and 500 men, will any such regiment be disbanded, or will local circumstances be taken into consideration and any exceptions made.

Mr. BRODRICK: A regiment of Yeomanry will be liable to be disbanded if it falls below 420, and a squadron if it falls below 100. The question of enforcing the liability will rest with the War Office, and local circumstances will certainly be taken into consideration.

RESERVE OF OFFICERS.

Mr. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War, with reference to the position of officers of the reserve of officers who were called out to serve with Reserve regiments in June last, whether some of such officers were informed that on the Reserve regiments being broken up and Provisional regiments formed in their places their services would no longer be required, and that this would come into force on the 7th of March, but that instead of this taking place, some of these officers have now been required to continue their service with the Provisional regiment and others with Regular regiments; and whether such action is in keeping with the promises made to these officers and with statements made in this House as to the intentions of the War Office, and what is intended to be done as to retaining these officers.

Lord STANLEY: The General Officer commanding a district in Ireland allowed certain officers of the Reserve to go on leave pending their release from service. Circumstances have, however, rendered it impossible to spare these officers, and it has been found necessary to recall them. No promises have been made from headquarters to these officers, but there is every intention to allow them to return to civil life as soon as the emergency will permit.

REGIMENTAL ACCOUNT-KEEPING.

*Mr. TOMKINSON (Cheshire, Crewe): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in his new scheme of Army reform, he will include a provision to relieve squadron and company officers from the responsibility of their accounts, and revert to the old system of regimental paymasters.

Lord STANLEY: The old system of regimental paymasters in no way relieved officers commanding companies and squadrons from the responsibility of their accounts. There is no intention of reverting to the system of regimental paymasters. The question whether any alteration should be made to meet the difficulties connected with the payment of soldiers on active service is now receiving consideration.

ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY, WOOLWICH—ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that at the church parade on St. Patrick's Day at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, the officer in command ordered all the cadets wearing shamrock to remove it; and can he explain why the cadets at the Royal Military Academy are specially exempted from the permission accorded generally to the Army by the late Queen.

*MR. BRODRICK: The Governor of the Royal Military Academy informs me that cadets were allowed to wear shamrock on St. Patrick's Day at all the parades except church parade. At this particular parade the bunches of shamrock worn in the helmets were of such abnormal proportions, and occasioned so much jocularity and unsteadiness in the ranks, that the officer on duty directed their removal in the interests of the respect due to divine service.

CAPTAIN DONELAN: Did the subaltern in charge give the order on his own responsibility?

*MR. BRODRICK: Yes; and I think that under the circumstances he was probably justified.

SALISBURY PLAIN—POLICE ARRANGEMENTS.

MR. FULLER (Wiltshire, Westbury): beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what arrangements he proposes to make for policing the increasing population that is being attracted to the eastern part of Salisbury Plain in consequence of the establishment of the camps, and whether he proposes to enter into negotiations with the county authority on the subject.

*LORD STANLEY: Arrangements have already been made with the Chief Constable for extra police. As the population increases the arrangements will be extended.

INFANTRY SOLDIERS' KITS.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will agree to placing infantry soldiers on the same footing as Royal Marines in the matter of underclothing by supplying three shirts to them on enlistment and one yearly thereafter during their period of service.

*LORD STANLEY: I have nothing to add to the reply I gave to the hon. Member on Thursday last.†

MARK IV. BULLETS.

MR. JOHN O'DONNELL (Mayo, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will state the value of the four-and-a-half millions of Mark IV. bullets that were broken up because of their uselessness; whether he will give the name of the firm that supplied such material; and whether, under the circumstances, any refund has been made to the Government; and, if so, when, and of what amount.

*LORD STANLEY: I have nothing to add to the reply which I gave to similar questions put by the hon. Members for Kilkenny and Ross and Cromarty on Friday last.‡

ARMY STAFF REORGANISATION.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if his proposals for the reorganisation of the Staff of the Army will extend to the formation of a body of Officers on a basis similar to that of the General Staff in Berlin, solely engaged in preparing for every eventuality of war, unencumbered by administrative duty.

*MR. BRODRICK: This question will be carefully considered, but I am not yet in a position to explain the exact distribution of duties.

ARMY REORGANISATION—THE RESERVE.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War, having regard to the fact that the first reinforcements for the Field Army in South Africa, to the number of over

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† See page 700. ‡ See page 849.

13,000 men, were furnished by the Militia Reserve, and that such reinforcements were necessary within three months of the declaration of war to supply the wastage of a campaign, if he will be good enough to state from what source under his proposals such reinforcements will be obtained if the Militia Reserve for the Army is abolished.

*MR. BRODRICK: The Army Reserve will in the normal be considerably increased by the percentage of three years men now taken who give nine years service in the Reserve; and also by the fact that the establishment of home battalions has been raised from 720 to 800. These steps were taken in 1898, and had not come into operation when the Militia Reserve was called up in 1900.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY IN THE NAVY.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, in view of the development of Marconi's wireless telegraphy on board the "Ophir," the escorting cruisers, and the stations at Gibraltar and Malta, the Admiralty will request the electricians to furnish special reports describing the operations, giving specimens of the messages transmitted from vessel to vessel and between the vessels and the shore, and also stating the distances between which they have been communicated; and will he also state on what number of His Majesty's ships installations of apparatus for wireless telegraphy have been made and arranged for.

*THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): The "Ophir" is not fitted with wireless telegraph apparatus. Wireless telegraphy has been in use in His Majesty's Navy for some time, and it is not expected that any special information will be derived from the operations conducted by the cruisers accompanying the "Ophir," or that any report upon the subject would be of value. Thirty-six of His Majesty's ships have installations of wireless telegraphy, and arrangements are in progress for installing the apparatus on other ships.

NAVY AND NAVAL RESERVE—STATISTICS OF NATIONALITY.

MR. BLACK: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the Return on the Paper of to-day as being moved for by me will be given as an unopposed Return.†

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The preparation of the Return asked for by the hon. Member would involve considerable time, labour, and expense, and, if it were furnished, it would not give the information which it is desired to obtain; the place of birth of officers and men serving affording no certain indication that the parents are natives of the country where the children are born. No inquiry is made by the Admiralty as to the particular locality from which officers and men come, the Service being common to the United Kingdom.

ADMIRALTY CONTRACTS—PENALTIES FOR DELAYS.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the Admiralty, what was the total amount of penalties for delay in the fulfilment of Admiralty contracts incurred during the year 1900, and the amount of the penalties enforced during the same period.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The total amount of penalties for delay in the fulfilment of shipbuilding contracts, during the year ending 31 December. 1900, was £172,911, and penalties were inflicted to the extent of £1,177.

WEST AFRICAN GOLD MINING COMPANIES.

MR. M'DERMOTT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any, and, if so, what West African Gold Mining Companies pay tax on their gross receipts; and what are the considerations in respect of which they make such payment.

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† The following is the Return referred to:—"Return of the nationality of the *personnel* in active service in His Majesty's Navy, distinguishing between English, Scotch, Irish, Welsh, and Colonial; also between the Navy proper and the Naval Reserve; and showing the number of each nationality in each rating."

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Two companies, the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation and the Castle Gold Exploration Syndicate, pay a royalty to the Gold Coast Government on the gross value of all gold got from the lands occupied by them. These payments, which are due under agreements made some years before the passing of the Concessions Ordinance, are made by the companies in consideration of their having been authorised by the Government to occupy the lands leased to them by the native owners.

ASHANTI—MILITARY OPERATIONS.

MR. M'DERMOTT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can state the number of towns and villages which have been destroyed during the recent military operations in Ashanti; and, whether any steps have been taken to ascertain the extent of the destitution and loss of life caused by the destruction of the habitations of the people and of their crops and other food stuffs.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: No; but in reply to inquiries I made at the time, I was assured that the destruction of towns and villages was limited to what was absolutely necessary to produce submission, but that the food supply was practically inexhaustible, and that there was no danger of famine or destitution.

CHINA—RUSSO-CHINESE AGREEMENT.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if the suggested agreement between Russia and China will affect the interests of British traders in those parts of China which are proposed to be thus brought under Russian influence.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Viscount CRANBORNE, Rochester): The versions of the proposed agreement which have come under our notice contain provisions which would apparently affect British trade interests in China in those parts of the Empire to which the agreement applies.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask a question of which I have given private notice, namely, whether the Chinese Government has at present refused to sign the agreement regarding Manchuria which Russia is now pressing upon her, and will the Government support China in her refusal.

VISCOUNT CRANBORNE: His Majesty's Government cannot pretend to be accurately informed as to the precise position of the negotiations, to which this country is not a party, and under these circumstances I must respectfully decline to answer any hypothetical question as to our conduct.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): Is it intended on the part of the Government to intimate to China that Russia will not be allowed to take Manchuria?

[No answer was returned.]

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): Do as you did at Fashoda.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I shall give notice.

ALLEGED LOOTING AT PEKING.

MR. PIRIE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that the Chief Ordnance Officer of the Staff of General Chaffee in China stated that the British looted openly and systematically and sold the plunder by auction each afternoon at the British Legation under the direction of an officer, the proceeds being used for the soldiers; and whether he will cause inquiries to be made from General Gaselee with a view of contradicting such a statement if incorrect, or if not, of dealing adequately with those permitting such a state of affairs.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): I am not aware of any statement of the kind said to have been made; but as I have before said, if any specific allegation is brought to my notice I will cause inquiries to be made into it.

CUTTING SUBMARINE CABLES IN WAR TIME.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will cause to be presented to this House, as soon as possible, a Copy of the Code of Law issued by the Navy Department and signed by the President of the United States, concerning matters relating to the cutting of submarine cables in war.

Viscount CRANBORNE: Inquiry will be made through His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington as to whether there is any objection to publishing the rules in the United States Naval War Code relating to submarine telegraphic cables. If not, I shall be happy to give the hon. and gallant Member the information he requires.

INDIAN MINTS—SILVER COINAGE.

Mr. GRENFELL (Buckinghamshire, Wycombe): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been directed to the fact that with the mints closed to the free coinage of silver, no less than seventeen and a quarter crores of rupees have been coined during the past year in India; whether so large a number of rupees were ever coined in a single year when the Indian mints were open to the free coinage of silver, and if so, in what years; and what has been the average profit per rupee coined during the financial year.

Lord G. HAMILTON: The coinage in India during the twelve months from 1st March, 1900, to 28th February, 1901, appears to have been a little over sixteen crores of rupees. This is nearly equal to the amount of the coinage in 1877–78, the greatest hitherto recorded. The average profit per rupee coined cannot yet be stated, but it is doubtless very large; possibly about 30 per cent. of the coined value may be profit. The profit is not being treated as revenue, but is being set apart in a gold reserve fund. There is no intention of again considering proposals for the re-opening of the Indian mints to the free coinage of silver.

ARMY AND NAVY WORKS EXPENDITURE.

Sir CHARLES DILKE: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer what is now the Estimate of expenditure in the present financial year, and what the Estimate for the next financial year of the Expenditure on Capital Account by the Admiralty and the War Office under the Naval Works Acts, the Military Works Acts, or otherwise, in addition to any sums repaid by annuities charged on Estimates.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (Sir M. Hicks Beach, Bristol, W.): The amounts issued on Capital Accounts in 1900–1, which may be taken to represent probable expenditure, are as follows –

	£
1. To the Admiralty, for Naval Works ..	2,135,000
2. To the War Office, for Military Works ..	1,200,000
	£3,335,000
To this must be added the Charge for Annuities paid in respect of Loans under the old Barracks Act ..	286,000
	£3,621,000

It is not yet known what the expenditure is likely to be next year, nor could I make myself responsible for an Estimate for it.

OFFICERS ON ACTIVE SERVICE AND INCOME TAX.

Major RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he could consider the possibility of exempting officers serving in South Africa from Income Tax on their pay.

Sir M. HICKS BEACH: It would be quite unprecedented to do this. Officers of the British Army serving abroad are by law chargeable on the pay they receive through the War Office, and have never heretofore been exempted by reason of foreign service.

OVERCROWDED RAILWAY CARRIAGES.

Mr. GRAY (West Ham, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the overcrowding of many of the trains and the lack of proper accommodation at the stations on the London, Tilbury, and Southend line, particularly between London and Barking; and whether he can exercise any power to remedy the defects of which complaint is made.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): I am afraid the Board of Trade cannot put a stop to overcrowding on railways; I have, however, communicated with the company on the subject of the Hon. Member's question, and I shall be happy to show him the reply, which is lengthy.

LIGHT RAILWAYS IN THE HIGHLANDS.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that, under The Railways (Ireland) Act, 1896, the Treasury is under no restriction as to the amount of an advance where the proposed railway is situated wholly or mainly in a congested districts county; and, in view of the fact that, under the existing Act, it is not practicable to secure the construction of light railways in the Highland crofting counties, will the Government consider the expediency of amending the Light Railways Act, 1896, so as to enable the Treasury to give grants to light railways in the crofting counties without the limit imposed by Section 5 of the Light Railways Act.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: No, Sir, I am not prepared to propose an alteration of the Act in the direction suggested. I am not satisfied that the Amendment referred to by the hon. Member is necessary in order to enable Light Railways to be made in the Highlands.

MR. WEIR: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that not a single light railway has been constructed in the Highlands under the Light Railways Act?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: No, Sir.

DUNKELD RAILWAY FACILITIES.

MR. STROYAN (Perthshire, W.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he is aware of the dissatisfaction among the inhabitants of Dunkeld and district in consequence of the alleged insufficient facilities provided by the Highland Railway Company for this centre on the southern section of the Highland Railway; and especially in connection with the train leaving Perth at 6.15 a.m., which passes Dunkeld without stopping, this arrangement making it impossible for passengers travelling to stations north of Aviemore to leave Dunkeld until 12.15 p.m., and further making it necessary to carry the morning mails and newspapers on to Ballinluig, from which junction they are brought back to Dunkeld; and will he give this matter and the claims of the inhabitants of Dunkeld to better treatment at the hands of the company his consideration.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: Questions relating to the reasonableness of the facilities furnished by railway companies for the forwarding of traffic are for the Railway and Canal Commissioners and not for the Board of Trade; but I shall be happy to communicate with the company on the subject of the hon. Member's question, and inform him of the result.

GAMBLING IN GRAIN OPTIONS.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he has had any communication from the German Government upon gambling in grain options; whether he will inquire into the operation of the German law prohibiting such gambling in food stuffs; and whether there is any prospect of the Continental, United States, and British Governments considering the advisability of co-operating to prevent a corner in corn being manipulated in the corn exchange markets by gamblers in futures.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I have had no communication from the German Government on this subject. Reports on the operation of the German law regulating produce exchanges have been received from time to time through His Majesty's Embassy in Berlin. The last, published in the *Board of Trade Journal* for 12th April, 1900, reported the reopening of the Berlin produce exchange. I see no need for a special inquiry. So far as I am aware there is no present prospect of such action as is suggested in the last paragraph.

VENTILATION ON THE METROPOLITAN RAILWAY.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that under Section 23 of the Metropolitan Railway Company Act of the 2nd August, 1898, the Railway Company is enjoined either to adopt a system of electric traction or to arrange artificial means of ventilating the railway otherwise than by openings within a period of three years from the passing of the Act; and will he ascertain what steps the company have taken with a view to carry out these conditions, and will he consider the expediency of enforcing them.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: No, Sir, that is not quite the effect of the section referred to. It is, however, I think, common knowledge that the company are taking active steps to select a satisfactory form of electric traction.

Mr. WEIR: Have not this company had three years in which to provide electric traction or to arrange artificial means of ventilation?

[No answer was given.]

FOREHOE (NORFOLK) GUARDIANS.

Mr. F. W. WILSON (Norfolk, Mid): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if he is aware that owing to differences between the Forehoe (Norfolk) Guardians and the master of the workhouse, forty-four out of forty-seven members of the board resigned their seats, and that practically the whole of these guardians have been re-elected by the ratepayers; whether the Local Government Board is sustaining the master against the board of guardians; and, seeing that meetings of the guardians have ceased through inability to form a quorum, what steps the Local Government Board intends to take to replace the public control by elected guardians which has hitherto existed.

The PRESIDENT of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.): I am aware of the circumstances of the case referred to in the first paragraph of the question. The number of members who tendered their resignation was, however, less than that supposed by the hon. Member, and these resignations did not take effect as I did not accept them. The guardians wished that the master of the workhouse should be removed from office; but, after an inquiry had been held on the subject by two of the inspectors of the Local Government Board, I came to the conclusion that there was no sufficient ground for his dismissal. The administration of the affairs of the incorporation devolves upon the guardians, and the responsibility for any difficulty which may arise from any failure to attend the necessary meetings must rest entirely with them. I have caused the guardians individually to be reminded of their duties and responsibilities, and I trust that there will be no further difficulty in the matter.

LEADLESS GLAZE—GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

Mr. TALBOT (Oxford University): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the War Office have assimilated their practice to that of the Office of Works in the matter of the use of leadless glaze in china and earthenware goods ordered by contract.

Lord STANLEY: The existing War Department contract for earthenware goods, which runs for three years and has been in force since the 1st February, 1900, prescribes the use of leadless glaze.

Mr. TALBOT: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the Admiralty have assimilated their practice to that of the Office of Works in the matter of the use of leadless glaze china and earthenware goods ordered by contract.

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The matter is now under consideration in connection with the tenders for next year's supply of earthenware goods, the manufacturers having been asked to give alternative tenders for the ordinary and the leadless glaze.

Mr. TALBOT: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the use of leadless glaze on china and earthenware goods is now required in the Departments over which the Treasury has control.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY to the TREASURY (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.): I am obliged to my right hon. friend for calling my attention to this matter. I find that nearly all the china and earthenware required by the Departments referred to in this question is supplied by the Board of Works. In the few cases in which this is not done I will endeavour to arrange that the use of leadless glaze shall as far as possible be insisted upon. I am, however, informed by the Postmaster General that he has not, as yet, been able to secure sufficient numbers of properly glazed insulators for telegraph purposes treated without lead, but he hopes that before long the present difficulties may have been overcome, and that he may be in a position to give orders that only insulators treated with leadless glaze are to be used.

SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION IN LONDON.

Mr. TALBOT: I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education what basis is taken for calculating deficiencies in school accommodation in the district of the London School Board.

The VICE-PRESIDENT of the BOARD of EDUCATION (Sir J. Gorst, Cambridge University): The basis taken is always the amount of accommodation for which a given school is actually recognised by the Board of Education.

Mr. TALBOT: Is the basis of population determined by the last census, or by the present estimate of population?

Sir J. GORST: Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman will put the question down for Thursday, when I shall be able to answer it.

IRISH DRIFT SURVEY.

Mr. FIELD: I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether he can state when the Drift Survey for Ireland was commenced; when it was completed; whether the maps embodying the said Irish Drift Survey have been published; and whether they were six-inch maps similar to those now being published for England.

Sir J. GORST: It was commenced in 1845 and completed in 1887.

PRIVATE POSTAL COLLECTIONS—SHEFFIELD CASE.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether any decision has been arrived at which will meet the claims put forward by Mr. J. G. Graves, of Sheffield, for having parcels of a certain postal value collected at his works.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The Postmaster General has sanctioned an arrangement by which registered letters and parcels of whatever value can be collected under certain conditions from the premises of private firms and others who may desire to post such articles in large numbers. The necessary instructions for regulating this service are now being issued.

SMALL HOLDINGS IN SCOTTISH CROFTING COUNTIES.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if the Secretary for Scotland will consider the expediency of introducing legislation with a view to an amendment and extension of the Local Government Act of 1894, so as to enable parish councils to acquire land compulsorily for allotments and small holdings by an inexpensive process; and will he state the number of allotments which have been secured in the six crofting counties under the existing legislation.

*The LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire): The Secretary for Scotland cannot come under the obligation suggested in the first paragraph of the hon. Member's question. The information asked for in the second paragraph of the question cannot be obtained from any official Department, but a Return on the subject of allotments has been moved by the hon. Member for Clackmannan, which will include the information desired.

LOCH CARLOWAY.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the Fishery Board for Scotland has received a copy of a resolution passed at a mass meeting of fishermen held at Carloway, Lewis, on the 11th instant, urging that a beacon should be erected on Tanasgeir, Loch Carloway; and will he state the nature of the reply sent to the fishermen.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: A copy of the resolution referred to was received by the Fishery Board for Scotland, who replied that they were not the body charged by Parliament with the management and control of lights. The Secretary for Scotland has requested the Fishery Board to send the Papers to the Northern Lights Commissioners.

AVOCH HARBOUR.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, seeing that Mr. Fletcher, of Rosehaugh, Ross-shire, has allowed the Provisional Order, granted to him in July, 1894, for the construction of a harbour at Avoch to lapse; and, in view of the fact that Avoch is a fishing station, and that the fishermen have suffered pecuniary loss for the want of suitable harbour accommodation, will the Secretary for Scotland state what steps it is proposed to take in the matter so that the fishing industry in this district may not be further injured.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The matter is not one for the intervention of the Secretary for Scotland, but lies with those locally interested in the harbour; and any proper representation made to the Fishery Board on the subject will no doubt be duly considered.

ROADS IN THE ISLAND OF LEWIS.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he will state what progress has been made with the arrangements for the construction of a road between Gravir and Cromore in the Park District of the Island of Lewis.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I am informed by the Congested Districts Board that one or more members will probably meet the local promoters on the spot next month, and come to a conclusion as to the best route to adopt.

CONGESTION ON THE ISLAND OF BARRA.

MR. JOHN DEWAR (Inverness): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the Congested Districts Board have succeeded in acquiring land from Lady Gordon Cathcart to relieve the congestion among the crofters and cottars in the Island of Barra.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The land in Barra which has been purchased by the Congested Districts Board from Lady Gordon Cathcart includes Northbay, Grean, Cliat, and Ardveenish, approximately about 3,000 acres, with complete possession of a great portion of it during the present year.

CROFTERS' COMMISSION REPORTS.

MR. JOHN DEWAR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, having regard to the fact that the Annual Reports of the Crofters' Commission are frequently required for reference in the various distrcts of the crofting counties, can arrangements be made for these Reports to be sent to the sheriff clerks' offices in each of the six crofting counties, so that they may be readily available.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The gratuitous distribution of Parliamentary Papers is only sanctioned under exceptional circumstances, which do not appear to exist in the case referred to by the hon. Member. So far as the Secretary for Scotland is aware, no similar demand has been made for them during the fourteen years these Reports have been issued. Each Annual Report is published by the Stationery Office at the price of 11½d. If the Secretary for Scotland were convinced that there is a reason for a somewhat exceptional course he would be willing to approach the Treasury on the subject.

DONEGAL FISHERIES.

MR. O'DOHERTY (Donegal, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that loans are issued by the Congested Districts Board to fishermen in congested districts for the purchase of herring nets and for fishing gear; that in June and July the only fishing available along the north coast of Donegal is for salmon; and that application has been made to the Board by fishermen in congested districts for loans for salmon nets, as at present the fishermen are handicapped by the terms upon which they only can procure nets locally; and whether the Board have determined that the loans for the purchase of salmon nets would be contrary to their policy; and, if so, whether the Government will direct the Agricultural and Industries Department to consider this matter and issue loans in congested districts to fishermen and others requiring them for salmon nets on terms similar to those upon which herring nets are supplied by the Congested Districts Board.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): The reply to the first query is in the affirmative. Both the Congested Districts Board and the Department of Agriculture have decided to adhere, for the present, to the policy hitherto adopted by the Fishery Authorities in refusing to make loans for the purchase of salmon nets.

MR. O'DOHERTY: Cannot the Agricultural Department grant loans for salmon nets for fishermen on the same terms as the Congested Districts Board lends money for the purchase of herring nets?

MR. WYNDHAM: No, Sir; and for the reason that salmon nets can be obtained on very favourable terms from the merchants.

LOUGH FOYLE SALMON FISHERY LICENCES.

*MR. O'DOHERTY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the annual licensing duty payable by the fishermen of Lough Foyle for the privilege of fishing for salmon in the open sea outside the lough; how many hours per week do those licences enable fishermen to fish for salmon; what is the annual licence payable by fishermen in inland rivers and loughs for the privilege of fishing for salmon; and to whom does the money thus payable by these fishermen go; do the conservators or those to whom this money is payable apply any of it for protecting the Foyle and Bann fisheries for the Irish Society of London, who receive an annual rent of £3,000 for them; and will the Government take steps to carry out the suggestion by witnesses from the districts examined before the Inland Fisheries Commission that the fishermen who have to fish in the open sea outside the lough should be granted licences at lesser sums than at present, and that the money at present payable by the conservators or those to whom the licence duty at present goes should not be spent in protecting the fisheries for the Irish Society, who receive annually such a rental out of the property.

MR. WYNDHAM: The licence duty payable on each drift net for taking salmon in the open sea outside Lough Foyle is £3. These nets may be used for 120 hours per week, during the annual open season. In inland rivers and loughs the licence duty on drift nets is £3, that on snap nets ranges from 15s. to 30s. The moneys paid for licences are received by boards of conservators. The funds of these boards are expended in paying bailiffs to enforce the fishery laws; but I have no information as to how far the protection thus afforded is carried out in the special interest of any fishery proprietor, or of the public who fish on their common law rights. The fixing of licences within statutory limits rests with boards of conservators, subject to the approval of the Department of Agriculture. The Department is not at present prepared to apply for legislation enabling it to fix licences for this district in opposition to the views of the conservators.

KINNAGOE BAY, MOVILLE.

*MR. O'DOHERTY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if the attention of the Congested Districts Board (Ireland) has been called to the necessity for the improvement of the landing accommodation at Kinnagoe Bay, near Moville; and, seeing that a report was made by the engineer of said board as far back as 1894 as to the necessity of this work, and a drawing and estimate furnished for the carrying out of this work, that a memorial has been received from the local fishermen pointing out the necessity for the work in question, and as the engineer of the Congested Districts Board estimates the cost at £190, whether directions will be given to the board to have this work carried out at once.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Board's engineer reported on the nature of, not the necessity for, the work mentioned. The question of undertaking it is at present under consideration by the Board.

IRISH AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.

*MR. O'DOHERTY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland what steps, if any, have been taken by the new Department of Agriculture in Ireland to put into operation Section 17, sub-section (a), of the Agricultural and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act, 1899; has the Department instituted any investigation with a view to have this sub-section duly administered; and has the head of the Department considered the necessity of appointing a permanent official, such as those appointed by the Canadian and other Governments, for the purpose of having this section properly put into force, and thereby protecting the agricultural and other industries in Ireland.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Department is not yet in a position to take action under the provision referred to. Information on matters coming within the scope of the section is being obtained. The question of the appointment of an official having expert knowledge of the subjects to be dealt with has not escaped the attention of the Department. It has, however, been considered advisable to postpone a decision in the matter until it can be ascertained to what extent technical assistance of the nature required can be afforded by other Departments.

*MR. O'DOHERTY: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the Vice-President of the Department applied for special permission to appoint an expert to carry out this section of the Act, and that the Treasury refused?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

BUNAGEE PIER.

*MR. O'DOHERTY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the pier at Bunagee, Culdaff, was erected according to plans and upon a site selected by the Board of Works; when was it erected; how much did it cost; how much of the total cost was contributed out of the local rates: whether his attention has been called to a speech delivered by his predecessor in office, on the cutting of the first sod of the Carndonagh line of railway, wherein he designated this construction as a dry land pier: and, whether compensation will be made by the Irish Government for the money thus expended by the Board of Works, either in providing a harbour of refuge for fishing boats along this coast, or in cutting a canal to bring water to this dry land pier so that it may be of some service for the purpose for which it was constructed.

MR. WYNDHAM: The site for the pier referred to was selected not by the Board of Works, but by the Fishery Piers and Harbours Commissioners—a body created by the Sea Fisheries Act, 1883. The plans were approved by the Commissioners, and the pier was completed in November, 1887. The cost was £3,842, of which the sum of £239 was provided by loan payable out of local rates, £3,353 advanced by way of Grant under the Act of 1883, and £250 contributed by persons interested in the locality. I have not seen a report of the speech referred to in the second paragraph. With reference to the third paragraph, I have already informed the hon. Member that the suggested construction of a harbour of refuge on this coast is a project which can only be considered in connection with similar projects of considerable magnitude.

CONTEMPT OF COURT—WIDOW SALMON'S CASE.

MR. JOHN O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will give a Return of the number of cases of contempt of court that have been dealt with in the Westport petty sessions district within the past five years, and the term of imprisonment imposed in each case.

Mr. WYNDHAM: There has been only one such case, that of Mrs. Salmon, referred to in the next question of the hon. Member.

Mr. JOHN O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will give a Return of the number of times that Widow Salmon, of Carrowkennedy, near Westport, has been convicted at the Westport petty sessions, the date of each conviction, the date of her committal and release from prison, and the term spent in prison on each separate occasion, and the nature of the charge for which she was so convicted: whether he is aware that on a recent occasion this woman got a sentence of one month's imprisonment for contempt of court, in addition to two months imposed upon her for an alleged assault on the man who has taken her holding of land: and whether he will recommend that at the expiration of her first sentence this woman will be liberated for the purpose of looking after her eight orphans.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The Return is in preparation, and will be forwarded to the hon. Member when completed. The answer to the second paragraph is in the affirmative. Any application by this woman, or on her behalf, for a mitigation of sentence should be addressed in the usual way to the Lord Lieutenant.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND.

Mr. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the number of assistant librarians and attendants employed in the National Library of Ireland, and in the British Museum Library of Printed Books, respectively, and the annual attendance of readers at each of these libraries as shown by the latest Returns; whether he is aware that, owing to want of accommodation in the National Library of Ireland, there is no room for the increase in Ordnance Survey Maps and Patent Specifications; and that a free gift of the American Patents Specifications had to be declined for this reason; and, will he state to what extent the recommendations of the trustees have been carried out.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The number of assistant librarians in the National Library of Ireland is two, and the number of attendants is twelve (six men and six boys). The number of readers in the Library in 1899 was 154,878. I cannot speak for the British Museum. Accommodation has been found in the Dublin Library for the Maps and Specifications. The offer of the American Patents Specifications has been declined by the trustees, partly owing to considerations of space and partly because a larger staff would be required for the additional work that would arise if the offer were accepted. It is not clear to what recommendations the last paragraphs refer.

Mr. BOLAND: Considering that the staff at the National Library is so inadequate, as well as the buildings, will the right hon. Gentleman take steps to have both these matters remedied?

Mr. WYNDHAM: If the hon. Member means will I put myself in communication with the Treasury for the purpose, I cannot undertake to do so.

FLAX CULTIVATION IN ULSTER.

Mr. M'FADDEN (Donegal, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, if his attention, as President of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Department, has been drawn to resolutions of the county councils of Londonderry and Donegal, passed at their last quarterly meetings, requesting the Government to take immediate steps to have the fishery laws amended so that flax cultivators will not be compelled as at present to retain the flax water in the dams after the removal of the flax from the steep; and, whether, seeing that flax is extensively grown in said counties, and is a remunerative crop which enables farmers to a great extent to pay their rents, and that the farmers of Ulster unanimously demand the change in the law indicated, he will advise the Government to legislate and remove the restrictions imposed on flax cultivators and the alleged grievances at the hands of fishery conservators.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The reply to the first paragraph is in the affirmative.

The Department, as at present advised, does not consider it desirable to relax the restrictions provided by law against the discharge of flax water into rivers frequented by salmon and trout.

LIFFORD BRIDGE.

Mr. M'FADDEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Strabane Urban Council, although requested by the County Council of Donegal to contribute to the maintenance and repair of Lifford Bridge, which connects the counties of Tyrone and Donegal, and which should be maintained at the joint expense of those bodies, has refused to comply with the request of the county councils of the counties which benefit by the bridge and are legally liable for its maintenance and repair; and, if he will, as President of the Local Government Board, instruct that body to inform the Strabane Urban Council and the county council of Tyrone that they are liable to the demand of the county council of Donegal.

Mr. WYNDHAM: It does not appear (from the information before me) that the Strabane Urban Council have made this refusal (to contribute towards the maintenance and repair of this bridge). The secretary of the Donegal County Council states that the subject will be further considered at a special meeting on the 3rd April. The Tyrone County Council considers that the matter is outside its jurisdiction, the bridge being within the Urban District of Strabane. The Local Government Board has not been asked to advise the councils upon the question, and until a decision has been arrived at by each of these bodies, it does not appear to the Board that the matter is one in which it is called upon to intervene.

WHITE ESTATE, BANTRY.

Mr. GILHOOLY (Cork County, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state when the sale of the White Estate, near Bantry, will take place.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The rental for the sale of the holdings on this estate was settled on the 18th instant, and it now rests with the solicitors having carriage of the sale to apply to the judge for a request under the 40th section of the Act of 1896.

IRISH BOARD OF WORKS LOANS.

Captain DONELAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the payment of instalments upon Board of Works loans under present conditions presses upon borrowers; and whether, with a view to lighten the burden, consideration will be given to the desirability of extending the term of repayment and reducing the rate of interest, together with periodical revisions, as adopted under the land purchase system.

Mr. WYNDHAM: There is nothing in the representations made to the Board by applicants, or in the way in which repayments are made, to suggest that the terms of repayment involve undue pressure. The rates of interest have been fixed by the Treasury as liberally as a due regard to the position of the local funds will admit. The answer to the last portion of the question is, therefore, in the negative.

Captain DONELAN: Cannot the suggested change be made without material cost to the Treasury?

Mr. WYNDHAM: That is a question for the Treasury.

IRISH LANDED ESTATES COURT.

Mr. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that there are a number of estates at present under the jurisdiction of the Landed Estates Court in Ireland on which no steps have been taken to make tenants the owners of their farms in accordance with the provisions of the 40th section of the Land Act of 1896; and what action, if any, is contemplated with the view of having the sales of these estates effected.

Mr. WYNDHAM: The case of every estate in which a receiver was appointed prior to 1897 has been brought before the land judge for his decision whether the provisions of the 40th section were applicable. In many of these cases the proceedings have not yet reached the stage when a request can be issued for an inspection by the Land Commission. These cases are not, however, lost sight of but are relisted from time to time in order to see what progress is being made to a sale. In other cases, in which a receiver was appointed since 1897, a similar arrangement is being carried out.

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY—SUMMER UNIFORMS.

MR. JOHN HUTTON (Yorkshire, Richmond): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has been able to arrange for the supply of suitable summer clothing for the Royal Irish Constabulary during the present year.

MR. WYNDHAM: Experiments will be made during the coming season with a view to the selection of a suitable material, but it will not, I am afraid, be found possible to arrange for the supply this year of summer clothing to the constabulary.

PORTADOWN DISTURBANCES.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can now state what the special police protection was which was afforded on the 26th August last to certain Roman Catholic excursionists of Portadown against insult and injury at the hands of the Orange majority.

MR. WYNDHAM: The precautions taken by the local police authorities on the date mentioned consisted in the concentration of seventeen men at various points on the line of route followed by the excursionists in the morning. An additional force of 100 police arrived at Portadown in the course of the day, and these men, with the local force, were also distributed where it was considered their services could be utilised to the best advantage.

MR. WILLIAM JOHNSTON (Belfast, S.): Is there any reason for stigmatising these people as "Orangemen"?

MR. CLANCY: The right hon. Gentleman stated last night that the police had been remiss and that some persons connected with them had been censured. Can he name a single person connected with the administration of justice in Portadown who has been removed from his post?

MR. WYNDHAM: There was no occasion for any such drastic measure.

FACTORY PROSECUTION IN DONEGAL.

MR. M'FADDEN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can state the costs of the Crown in the case of Squire v. Sweeney, heard on a case stated under the Factory Acts in the Queen's Bench Division, Ireland, in the months of June, 1900, and January, 1901, and the costs of the defendant in the case paid by the Crown as a result of the decision of the Queen's Bench affirming the decision of the magistrates at Dungloe, county Donegal, Petty Sessions, dismissing the charge against the defendant; and whether the fines imposed on several defendants in similar cases at petty sessions in county Donegal have, since the decision of the High Court in this case, been refunded to the defendants, and the amounts of the fines so refunded.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): At the request of my right hon. friend, I will reply to this question. The costs of the Crown have not yet been taxed, and I am unable to state what they amount to. The costs of the defendant in the first case amounted to £42 5s. 1d. The defendant's costs in the second case are at present before the Master of the Crown Office. The answer to the last query is in the affirmative. Fines imposed in eight cases, amounting in the aggregate to £65, have been refunded.

MR. M'FADDEN: Were not six magistrates brought to Dublin in connection with this case? Seeing that their action was vindicated, will not the Crown pay their expenses?

MR. ATKINSON: I do not agree with the view of the hon. Member. Anyhow, there is no power on the part of the Crown to pay their costs.

CRIMINAL LUNATICS IN IRISH LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

MR. GILHOOLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the maintenance of criminal lunatics confined in Irish asylums is defrayed out of the local rates since the passing of the Local Government (Ireland) Act; and, having regard to the fact that prior to the passing of the said Act a contribution of 4s. per head was paid from the Imperial Treasury, which grant now ceases, the contribution in aid of the rates coming from the local taxation account; and seeing that the cost of criminal lunatics in England is defrayed by the Treasury, whether he will have the Local Government (Ireland) Act amended with a view to assimilating it to the English Act dealing with the subject.

MR. WYNDHAM: The maintenance of criminal lunatics is not defrayed solely out of local rates, as approximately only one-half the cost of such maintenance falls on the local rates, the balance being met out of the local taxation account. The entire cost of criminal lunatics in England is defrayed by the Treasury, and the Government is now considering the question of assimilating the law in both countries.

CORK DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM.

MR. GILHOOLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the cost of maintenance of criminal lunatics admitted from gaols and Dundrum Asylum to the Cork District Lunatic Asylum, with sentences unexpired or confined during the Lord Lieutenant's pleasure, is properly chargeable to the funds available for the maintenance of the lunatic poor of the County Cork district, and, if not, whether he will make provision for refunding the cost from Imperial sources.

MR. WYNDHAM: The cost of maintenance of criminal lunatics in the Cork District Lunatic Asylum is chargeable to the funds available for the maintenance of the lunatic poor of the County Cork district; but, as stated in answer to the preceding question of the hon. Member, the Government is considering the question of defraying the cost of maintenance from Imperial sources.

MR. GILHOOLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether his attention has been called to a resolution recently passed by the Board of the Cork District Lunatic Asylum in which it was stated that the sum of £3,688 0s. 3d. has been long since certified by the auditor as being due as grant in aid for the three months ended 31st March, 1899; whether he is aware that a supplemental Vote has been passed on the 17th July last to recoup the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account for the grants in aid of Irish lunatic asylums; and, can he state what action he proposes to take in the matter.

MR. WYNDHAM: The reply to the first paragraph is in the affirmative. In answer to the second paragraph, the Supplementary Estimate was not a grant in aid of the maintenance of pauper lunatics. If the hon. Member will refer to the statement made by my right hon. friend the late Secretary to the Treasury on the 30th April, 1900,* he will find the object with which this Vote was taken fully explained.

MR. GILHOOLY: Is this money going to the credit of the Irish Local Taxation Fund at Dublin Castle?

MR. WYNDHAM: If the hon. Member refers to the statement I have mentioned he will get all the information available.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: In view of the fact that nearly every asylum in Ireland has made a complaint in reference to the same matter, will the right hon. Gentleman inquire into the matter and lay some statement before the public justifying his action?

MR. WYNDHAM: I have inquired, and have corresponded at some length with the asylums concerned, but they do not accept the explanation I offer.

MR. WILLIAM REDMON] that apply to the Clare Asylum, because—

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is about to argue.

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* See *The Parliamentary Debates* [Fourth Series], Vol. lxxxii. page 285.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: I will put a question down for Thursday. I only wanted to save time.

SCHULL LETTER CARRIER.

Mr. GILHOOLY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether the case of Mr. Dempsey, letter carrier in the town of Schull, has been considered; and, if so, with what result.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The Postmaster General has sanctioned an increase in the wages of the letter carrier at Schull, county Cork.

EYERIES POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS

Mr. GILHOOLY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether, in view of the importance of Eyeries, county Cork, as a fishing station, he will reconsider his decision and give a Sunday postal delivery there.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The Postmaster General regrets that, in view of the large deficiency on the existing postal service to Eyeries on week days, he would not be justified in sanctioning additional expense for the purpose of providing a Sunday post.

NAVAL EXPENDITURE IN IRELAND.

Mr. JOYCE (Limerick): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he can state how much of the total Vote for the Navy has been expended for the last year in Ireland, how it has been expended, and how much of the present Vote it is proposed to spend in Ireland.

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The accounts of the Admiralty are not kept in such a form as to enable this information to be given. Any statement on the subject is necessarily incomplete, and is nothing more than an approximation.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: Arising out of this matter may I ask the hon. Gentleman whether, in view of the interest naturally felt in Ireland in this matter, he cannot take steps to make some arrangement to have it known how much the Irish people are likely to participate in the great expenditure on the Navy?

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I do not think it would be possible to make a forecast of the expenditure. It is impossible to foresee what the movements of His Majesty's ships may be during the year.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: But the latter part of the question asks how much has been spent in Ireland during the last year. Surely that needs no forecast, and can be easily ascertained?

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I do not think it would be possible to give anything more than the approximate amount. I have no objection to endeavouring to obtain the information from the hon. Member, but I cannot promise to give the exact figures.

Mr. JOYCE: Arising out of that answer, are we to understand that the hon. Gentleman will give the approximate amount?

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Yes; if I can.

IRISH PROVISIONS FOR THE NAVY.

Mr. JOYCE: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he will state the amount expended for the last year in Ireland in purchasing pork and bacon for the Navy; whether any of this sum has been expended with Limerick city firms; and whether he will state the amount expended on pork and bacon in foreign countries.

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: During the current financial year £850 worth of pork was purchased from foreign countries. The whole of the remainder of the pork for the Navy—to the value of £13,234—was purchased in Ireland. The contracts for the supply of Irish pork were obtained by Cork firms, none of the Limerick firms having been successful in their tenders. Bacon is not purchased by the Admiralty for the use of the Navy.

Captain DONELAN: Has not Irish pork proved superior to foreign pork?

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I have had no opportunity of forming a personal opinion.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: May I ask the hon. Gentleman if he can give an undertaking that no money shall be spent in purchasing provisions in foreign countries when, seeing that they can be obtained in Ireland, there is no justification for it?

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I do not think I can do that.

LONDONDERRY SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY—ADMIRALTY CONTRACTS.

Mr. O'DOHERTY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is aware that the shipbuilding industry has been revived on the river Foyle, at Londonderry, and whether, having regard to the efforts made by the local people in promoting this Irish enterprise, he will have the yard inspected by technical officers of the Admiralty, as was done by his predecessor in 1887, with a view to ascertaining its capacity for executing Admiralty contracts and having it placed on the Admiralty list as eligible for contracts.

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: An application has recently been received at the Admiralty that the Londonderry Shipbuilding and Engineering Company may be considered with reference to future Admiralty work, and it is proposed to make arrangements for inspecting the establishment to ascertain its capabilities.

GRAND CANAL, IRELAND.

Mr. FIELD: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the Board of Works, Ireland, exact a tonnage rate in excess of the weight carried by canal boats on the Grand Canal, Ireland, and that vessels coming into Irish ports pay upon a registered tonnage less than the cargo carried; and whether he can explain the difference of system regarding the rating of inland waterway boats and ocean vessels.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: If I rightly appreciate the question, the hon. Member is comparing the tonnage rate charged for inland waterways for conveyance of goods with the harbour dues charged in respect of ocean vessels in ports. Conveyance rates and harbour dues do not seem to me to be comparable.

THE EASTER RECESS.

Mr. SAMUEL SMITH (Flintshire): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will consider the expediency of shortening the Easter Recess, in view of the pressure it will put on the House in the closing months of the session; and whether he will consider the advisability of utilising any spare time that may be available either at the Whitsuntide Recess or by an earlier adjournment in the autumn.

The FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.): The question of the expediency of shortening the Easter Recess in view of the pressure put on the House in the closing months of the session does not seem to be very popular. If the holidays were diminished at the Easter end, it would mean sitting on the Thursday before Good Friday, which would be a very inconvenient day. I do not think that would be for the general benefit of the House. On the other hand, if the holidays were diminished at the Whitsuntide end, that would mean the cutting off of three days—namely, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday—in order to get one Government day, and I hardly see how that would materially shorten the session, at the end of which Government business is usually congested.

Mr. SAMUEL SMITH: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that many Members of the House would prefer to have a longer holiday at Whitsuntide than at Easter?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I doubt if it would be felt generally convenient to sacrifice three days in order to secure an additional day for the Government.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware of the general interest felt in the first Order of the day for Wednesday, 17th April—the Bill of the hon. Member for Derby affecting employment in coal mines, as to which there is a possibility of some agreement?

Mr. HERBERT LEWIS: I would also call attention to the second Order for the Tuesday.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have no doubt that great interest is taken in every Order, but that does not touch the question put to me by the hon. Member for Flintshire.

AGRICULTURAL LAND RATING ACT.

MR. LEVY (Leicestershire, Loughborough): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he can now inform the House when the proposal to renew the Agricultural Land Rating Act will be made, and if it will be by a separate motion or by inclusion in the Expiring Laws Continuance Bill.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I cannot give the hon. Gentleman any information as yet with regard to the date at which this matter will be dealt with by the House, but in all probability it will be by a separate motion, and not by any modification of the Expiring Laws Continuance Bill.

BIMETALLISM.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether any steps have been taken to call together an international conference to consider the currency question with a view to re-establish a bimetallic currency.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir.

POET LAUREATESHIP.

MR. EDWARDS (Radnorshire): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the post of Poet Laureate became vacant on the demise of the Crown; and, if so, whether he will consider the advisability of abolishing the office.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: We do not propose to make any change.

LAND TAX COMMISSIONERS' NAMES BILL.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Government intend to introduce a Land Tax Commissioners' Names Bill this session.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir, I understand that it is not necessary.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS: Is it not the custom at the commencement of each Parliament to introduce a Land Tax Commissioners' Names Bill? Why has that practice been departed from?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Perhaps the hon. Gentleman had better give notice of that question. I am informed that it is not necessary to do as he suggests.

SUPPLY—ARRANGEMENT OF VOTES—PROPOSED COMMITTEE.

SIR WALTER THORBURN (Peebles and Selkirk): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, whether, in the interests of the adequate discussion of the Votes in Supply, he will appoint a Committee of the House to consider and report upon the appropriation of a specified time for each class of Votes, with the view of securing reasonable discussion for the most important Votes during the period allotted for Supply.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am greatly in favour, as my hon. friend is aware, of a proposal which would lead to a Committee of this House being appointed for the allocation of the successive Votes in the business of Supply. I think my hon. friend proposes to go rather further than that, and to entrust to this Committee the determination of the exact length of time which each discussion should occupy. I see much greater difficulty in that proposal than in my more modest suggestion.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT: Will the Committee be moved at an early date?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Very probably.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

MR. HALSEY reported from the Committee of Selection: That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures:—Sir Charles Dalrymple; and had appointed in substitution: Colonel Williams.

Report to lie upon the Table.

NEW BILLS.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES AND RATING.

Bill to amend the Law relating to the Housing of the Working Classes, to establish Fair Rent Courts, and to amend the Law of Rating, ordered to be brought in by Dr. Macnamara, Mr. John Burns, Captain Norton, Dr. Shipman, Mr. George White, Mr. Stuart Samuel, and Mr. Bell.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES AND RATING BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to the Housing of the Working Classes, to establish Fair Rent Courts, and to amend the Law of Rating," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 18th April, and to be printed. [Bill 123.]

ELECTRIC LIGHTING (LONDON).

Bill to provide for the adjustment, in accordance with changes of boundary effected under The London Government Act, 1899, of the areas within which Local Authorities and Companies are authorised to supply electricity, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Gerald Balfour and Mr. Austen Chamberlain.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING (LONDON) BILL.

"To provide for the adjustment, in accordance with changes of boundary effected under The London Government Act, 1899, of the areas within which Local Authorities and Companies are authorised to supply electricity," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday, and to be printed. [Bill 124.]

HOME INDUSTRIES.

Bill for the better regulation of Home Industries, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Charles Douglas, Mr. John Burns, Mr. Churchill, Colonel Denny, Mr. Emmott, Mr. Fenwick, Mr. Munro Ferguson, and Mr. J. W. Wilson.

HOME INDUSTRIES BILL.

"For the better regulation of Home Industries," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday, 6th May, and to be printed. [Bill 125.]

CONSOLIDATED FUND (No. 1) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

ADMINISTRATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT IN IRELAND.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.): We wish to take this opportunity of drawing attention to the condition of Local Government in Ireland. At this moment the situation in regard to local administration in that country is sufficiently serious to engage the attention of Parliament. Grave dissatisfaction exists, is increasing, and is likely to increase, owing to the policy of the Local Government Board towards the local authorities. As a consequence of this dissatisfaction the efficiency of Irish Local Government will be seriously compromised. Irish local bodies are animated with a sincere desire to administer the Local Government Act to the greatest advantage of the community. I can speak from my own experience. Since I have had the honour to be associated in the administration of the local affairs of my own county with the County Council of Wexford and the District Council and the Board of Guardians of Gorey, I can speak of the zeal, energy, and self-sacrifice with which the members of these bodies have since the inception of the Irish Local Government Act endeavoured to do their duty to the public. The same may be said of the local bodies all over Ireland. Their members have cheerfully sacrificed their time, their convenience, and their money to discharge their duties to the greatest possible public advantage. The Local Government Act is a complicated and badly-drafted measure. The Irish local authorities have worked hard to make the best of it, and, in spite of the imperfections of the Act, and in spite of the complexity of the Act, they have succeeded to a wonderful extent. Our local bodies are universally and specially anxious to diminish the expense of administration, but, notwithstanding all their efforts, we find that the expense of local administration in Ireland increases every year by leaps and bounds. One would have thought that in their endeavours to administrate the Act efficiently, and to keep down the expense of administration, the Irish local authorities would have had the assistance of the Local Government Board for Ireland, but at every point they have been hampered and obstructed by the Local Government Board, with the result that intense dissatisfaction prevails all over the country at their unwarranted interference.

The action of the Local Government Board, speaking generally, is quite unconstitutional; we believe that it is in many cases illegal. A significant case in point is that of the Wexford County Council, to which I mean shortly to refer. Hitherto the high-handed action of the Local Government Board has been allowed to pass unchallenged. This is not so likely to occur in the future, as the result of certain cases which have been recently decided in the Law Courts. I foresee in consequence an enormous increase of litigation throughout the country, with a corresponding waste of public money, unless the authority of Parliament is immediately used to stop the evil.

The case of Wexford proves the necessity of thoroughly examining, and as far as possible resisting, the mandates of the Local Government Board. The last stage of this Wexford dispute is set out in a Return presented the other day which is in the hands of Members. But before dealing with the case may I say a word about the Return itself? The Return is drawn up in a confusing manner; for instance, Exhibits D and E (the statements of the county council), on page 25, are in answer to exhibits B and C on page 31 (the statement of the county surveyor); the statements in Exhibits D and E on page 25 are in answer to the statements similarly numbered in Exhibits B and C on page 31. These Exhibits should be examined together to explain the case of the county council. Similarly Exhibit D on page 43 (the statement of the county council) is in answer to Exhibit C on page 42 (the statements of the assistant surveyors). The Return is also confusing in other respects. But I make no complaint as far as the Chief Secretary for Ireland is concerned in relation to this Return. He deserves credit for the promptness and the courtesy with which he laid this Return upon the Table. I do not propose to go into the Return in detail, or to answer the points which were put forward by the Local Government Board; these points are easily answered, but there is no necessity to deal with them now, since the claims of the Local Government Board were unanimously rejected by the judges. I may remind the House of the history of the case. The Local Government Board claimed the right to increase the salaries of certain officials employed by the County Wexford County Council from 33 per cent. to 90 per cent., speaking roughly; an additional tax of something about halfpenny in the pound, sufficient, at all events, to put the Technical Instructions Acts in force throughout the county. Against these increases of salaries the council protested, and gave reasons for its protest. No attention was paid either to its reasons or to its protest. Then the Irish Government was asked to receive a deputation from Wexford and other counties interested in this same question, with a view to an amicable arrangement. This request was refused. Then the Local Government Board served the Wexford County Council and the other county councils with a Sealed Order commanding them to pay these increased salaries. This is the first instance in which the Sealed Order has been used in the case of county councils. The Sealed Order, it is worth noting, is an instrument unknown in England; it has been specially invented for the benefit of Ireland. It would not be tolerated for a moment in England, where public opinion is in favour of respectful treatment of local governing bodies by the central government Department in London. But the Sealed Order is a favourite instrument of administration in Ireland. Then in July last I moved the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing this new and unprecedented form of dealing with Irish county councils by serving them with Sealed Orders, and with a view also to a general ventilation of the case for the purpose of inducing the Government to adopt a moderate course. My motion came to nothing. I was told that my proceeding was an abuse of the privileges of the House; and so the matter rested as far as Parliament was concerned.

All their attempts at conciliation having failed, and having been driven into a corner, the County Council of Wexford, together with other county councils, decided to go to law with the Local Government Board with a view to securing a revision of the case. Unfortunately, in the Court of Queen's Bench the trial went against us, mainly owing to certain affidavits of the Local Government Board to which I propose to refer later. An important point was gained, however, in this trial, namely, that the Orders of the Local Government Board can now be put aside on *certiorari.* Previous to this trial the Local Government Board evidently considered themselves above all law. Undeterred by the failure of this action, the Wexford County Council carried their case to the Court of Appeal, and there they gained a complete victory. The decision in this matter is the most important judicial pronouncement made in Ireland for years, and one of the rare instances in Irish history in which the people have found the law on their side, and not on the side of their oppressors. The case undoubtedly will have an important bearing on the future of Irish administration. It will make for peace if the Government have sense, or it will make for further turmoil if the Government so elect; and if the Government wish for further fighting I can assure them we are ready to oblige them in this respect. The decisions of the judges in the Court of Appeal are given fully in the Return to which I have referred. I would ask English Members to read the judgments in the case, and form their own opinions upon them. As I have already said, I do not propose now to go into the details of this Return, or to answer the arguments put forward by the Local Government Board. It would be easy to answer them, but there is no need. They did not weigh with the judges, or prevent the case being determined in our favour. I may, however, be permitted to touch upon one or two points to illustrate how Irish local bodies are treated by the Local Government Board for Ireland.

One contention of the Wexford County Council was that the Order of the Local Government Board increasing the salaries of their officers was unjust. Let me quote on this point Chief Baron Palles—

> "It was argued that the Order was made in disregard of natural justice, because the Council had not a proper opportunity of hearing what was alleged against them and of being heard in reference to it. This second ground raises a question so important that I prefer not to express my opinion with reference to it."

It will be noted that the Chief Baron does not express disapproval of our contention. Later on I will quote Lord Justice Holmes on the same point.

From this Return the House will see that the Judges unanimously decided that the action of the Local Government Board was in excess of their jurisdiction. This is a serious reflection on a Government Department holding the extremely responsible position occupied by the Local Government Board, and if in this Wexford case the Local Government Board have exceeded their jurisdiction, in how many other cases may they not have exceeded it—cases which have never been brought into the Court of Appeal? And if they have so exceeded their jurisdiction to-day, what is to prevent them exceeding their jurisdiction upon some other question to-morrow? I will ask leave to quote shortly from some of the judgments upon this point—

> "This brings us to the third ground, that the decision was based upon a wrong principle I cannot think that the arguments in this Court upon this part of the case were identical with those which were presented in the Queen's Bench Division. I gather from the judgment of Mr. Justice Gibson that the ground of impeachment there relied on was that the determination proceeded on the application of a predetermined general scale, without due consideration of the facts and circumstances of the particular case, and no doubt that argument was one of those presented to us upon this portion of the case.
>
> "It was, however, further argued before us that the matter determined by the Board was a matter different from that which they had jurisdiction to determine. Their jurisdiction, it was rightly said, was to determine increase of remuneration in proportion to increase of duties. What they did determine, it was alleged, was the total amount of remuneration for all duties, including those which were performed before the Act. It is clear, indeed it is admitted, that if they did this they exceeded their jurisdiction." — (Chief Baron Palles, p. 9, in Return.)

I quote further from the Chief Baron—

> "There is no doubt that in the case under consideration (Leary's case) the increase of salary was arrived at by deducting his former salary, £80, from the £150 fixed by the scale." (In the Board's letter of the 23rd February, 1900.) "Thus what they have fixed is the total salary and not the increase of salary. In determining as they have done a material point must have been the remuneration which ought to be received for the duties these officers performed before the Act, but the Board has no power to determine this. . . . The action of the Board as described in this letter was in excess of their jurisdiction.

And the Chief Baron goes on to say—

"In Mr. Webster's case I therefore hold that the Board determined a matter wholly outside of their jurisdiction."

I will quote now from Lord Justice FitzGibbon, page 15 of Return:—

"In the case of Assistant Surveyor Leary, it is hard to believe that the Act of 1898 can have doubled his work, and nothing appears to explain this doubling of his salary except a determination to pay him more for his old work as well as for his new. The same principle seems to have been adopted in the case of the Council Surveyor Webster, and there is no evidence to the contrary. Upon this ground and in this respect I think the Orders now before us are made in excess of jurisdiction and are therefore bad. The Board converted Section 115 (18) from being a protection of vested interests into an occasion of raising salaries all round, and this it had no jurisdiction to do."

I now wish to direct attention to another point. In this case the Judges were at considerable pains to reconcile the affidavits filed on behalf of the Local Government Board with the letters written by the Local Government Board to the Wexford County Council. It will be remembered that the previous trial in the Queen's Bench, in which the Wexford County Council was defeated, was to a large extent ruled by these affidavits. I will quote from Chief Baron Palles, page 9 of Return—

"Let us therefore see what was the action of the Board in this matter. The relevant material before us are four letters of the Board—namely, those of the 7th and 23rd of February, the 27th June, and 6th July, and the affidavits of the Vice-President. It is suggested by Mr. Matheson" (the Counsel for the Board) "that the letters of the Board were inaccurate, having been written hurriedly in consequence of an alleged insufficiency of the staff. The affidavits from Sir H. Robinson do not allege or even hint at any such mistake, and it is to be remembered that they were filed in answer to affidavits on the part of the prosecutor (the County Council of Wexford), which referred to and relied upon the letters in question. Such a statement, before I could act upon it, should be supported by clear and satisfactory evidence, and of such evidence I do not find a trace. I consequently find myself coerced to hold that they truly represent the action of the Board."

On the next page of the Return the Chief Baron says:—

"The answer presented by the Counsel for the Board. . . . . is that the affidavit . . . . . shows that the Board did not do what is stated in this letter that it did do."

(The letter was written to the Wexford County Council on the 23rd February, 1900).

I quote again from the Chief Baron—

"As to the county surveyor, Mr. Webster, the ground of impeachment is not so clearly made out. That mode does not appear as clearly from the letters of the Local Government Board in this case as it does in reference to the assistant surveyors, and the Board within whose sole knowledge it is, have not thought it proper to bring before us as fully in my opinion as was desirable in proceeding under the Act of Parliament, which contemplates the individualism of each county. *Prima facie*, neither uniformity nor scale should have any place."

On page 18 of the Return Lord Justice Holmes says:—

"We have here letters deliberately written by the official whose duty it is to make known the views and decisions of the Local Government Board."

I leave to the apologists of the Local Government Board to explain the difference between their letters and their affidavits, which evoked such comments from the Judges of the Court of Appeal, but in view of the criticisms of the judges it would be interesting to know who wrote the letters in question. Was it anyone in authority in the Local Government Board, or was it an irresponsible clerk? I would suggest an inquiry into this matter; I think we have a right to be informed upon it, and I would further suggest the transfer of this officer to some other sphere where his talents would find proper and fitting application, say to Tientsin or to the Yang-tsze Valley, for his methods savour very strongly of those of the heathen Chinee.

I come now to the judgment of Lord Justice Holmes. I doubt if this judgment gave much satisfaction to the Local Government Board, but it certainly gave intense satisfaction to those interested in Irish Local Government. It is the most important and most instructive comment on the methods of administration in Ireland that I have ever read from the Irish Bench. On page 18 of the Return Lord Justice Holmes says:—

"It might have been more prudent if, before considering the Memorandum and Petition (of officers interested) the Board had called the attention of the council to these documents, and invited their comment thereon; but if the letters of February were, as I should have regarded them myself, and as the county council regarded them, not a final determina-

> tion of the matter, but a statement of what was in contemplation, no harm would have resulted. On the receipt of these letters the council took a judicious course; it forwarded a statement of the reasons against the increase of salaries, which, whether they were good or bad, were at least worthy of consideration. The reply to this document has caused me much surprise, and I feel myself bound to say that if it accurately reflects the spirit in which the Local Government Board has undertaken the important duties imposed upon it by the Act, no one can wonder if the result be friction and unpleasantness with the local authorities. Its purport is that if the arguments put forward in support of their protest . . . had been furnished to the Board in the previous autumn . . . it (the Board) would have weighed very carefully the council's opinion before deciding upon the increased salaries to be allowed. This must mean, if it has any meaning, that arguments, relating to the performance of a public duty involving the rights and liabilities of officers and ratepayers, submitted by one of the interested parties, which would or at least might have deserved to be weighed very cerefully, were to be wholly disregarded because they had not been submitted at an earlier period. When it is remembered that the only notice of any kind given to the council was a letter of August—"

this was not a letter at all, but a badly printed circular, numbered 317, to which nobody would be likely to pay any attention unless their notice was specially directed to it—

> "received at a time when the newly constituted bodies had only begun to learn their duties, that the board had never informed the Council of the Memorandum and Petition of the officers, and that the inquiry consequent thereon was conducted behind the backs of the parties interested; above all, when it is remembered that it was not until two months later that the sealed orders were issued, and that therefore the matter was still *sub judice*, the April letter must be regarded as a very curious contribution to official literature."

I will now quote from this letter of April this very curious contribution to official literature—

> "Local Government Board,
> "Dublin, 30th April, 1901.
>
> "Sir,—The Local Government Board for Ireland have had before them the resolutions of the Wexford County Council of the 28th ult. and 3rd inst. on the subject of the salaries fixed by the Board for the county surveyor and the assistant surveyors in the county, and in reply the Board desire to state that if the arguments put forward by the council in support of their protest against the increased salaries of the county surveyor and his assistants had been furnished to the Local Government Board last autumn, when they invited the views of the council upon the claims of these officers, the Board would have weighed very carefully the council s opinions before they decided upon the increased salaries to be allowed in this case. The council, however, did not intervene in the matter, either by supplying the Local Government Board with any statement of their views or by coming to an agreement with these officers, and the Board had under these circumstances only to fulfil the obligations imposed upon them by Section 115 of the Act."

I would like to say, in the first place, that in December previous the county council had put their views before the Local Government Board, and, secondly, that it was not possible for the county council to come to any agreement with their officers, for their officers were looking to the Local Government Board to settle their case, and no agreement with them by the county council would have been possible.

> "With regard to the council's resolution the Board have only to remark that while the council admit that these officers have certain increased duties to perform, they nevertheless propose to allow them no increase of salary whatever"

Here I must remark that the Local Government Board apparently did not read the communications they receive from the Wexford County Council. That council never admitted that there was any increase of duties devolving on their officers, while they expressly stated that they had no objection whatever to paying increased remuneration for increased duties if increased duties could be proved.

I may now quote the reply of the Wexford County Council, which epitomises the entire case—

> "That we declined to comply with the demands of the Local Government Board for increased remuneration in the case of our county surveyor and assistant surveyors, no reason having been advanced by the Local Government Board for increasing the salaries of these officers. That the notice of the transaction received by this council from the Local Government Board was quite insufficient, the only intimation being the receipt of a badly-printed circular which was sent to the secretary of the County Council instead of being sent, as it should have been, to the chairman and every member of the council and in the extreme pressure of business connected with putting the Act into operation and the effort made by this council to deal with the deluge of circulars which poured in upon them last year, the urgency of the matter escaped our notice. That as a simple matter of equity and ordinary courtesy the council had the right to expect that a question of such

> importance would not have been decided by the Local Government Board without their taking further steps if necessary to ascertain the views of the representatives of the ratepayers upon it. This consideration has been admitted to weigh with the Local Government Board in their subsequent correspondence with this council, in which they are pleased to intimate that if they had known what the true state of the case was when they delivered their judgment, that judgment would have been different from what it was."

I invite English Members to read this reply of the county council in conjunction with Lord Justice Holmes's judgment, and form thereon their conclusion as to whether that reply is not both appropriate and correct. And now the contest has entered on another phase. Instead of allowing the matter to rest, the Local Government Board have decided to reopen the case, and their explanation for this proceeding is quaint in the extreme. They admit that their proceedings have been informal—informal in the face of the unanimous decision of the judges, expressed in terms unprecedented in Irish law! Informal! Wholly unconstitutional and grossly illegal would have been nearer the truth. Their proceedings, they say, have been informal, and so they intend to begin again. They propose to hold an inquiry with a view to increasing the contested salaries. I invite the Government to consider seriously what they are about to do. There is quite sufficient ill-feeling already over this business, and do they wish to aggravate it? There is such a thing as law, no doubt, but there is also such a thing as policy, and the Government should consider if it is worth while to insist upon their pound of flesh with the result of reducing Irish local administration to a condition of chaos. The Attorney General will tell us that the law gives no alternative; I tell him that it does. You have your Orders in Council which have the effect of law; you have other remedies besides; you can make use of them if you choose, and so make your selection. It is utterly immaterial to me and to my hon. friends what you do. The Irish people are quite as ready to fight you on the Local Government Act as on any other question. We have no doubt as to who will win in the end, and, as I told the Government last July that the people of Wexford, though not anxious to fight, would fight if compelled, so I tell you now that they will fight you again if necessary, not for the sake of the few hundred pounds yearly in question, but for the sake of the principle at stake. The principle at stake in this contest is the right of the people to manage their own affairs. If we are not allowed to manage our own affairs, we will allow nobody else to manage them—so make your selection.

I protest against the reopening of this case. I protest against the proposed inquiry by the Local Government Board; in the face of the judgment of the Court of Appeal the proceeding is simply indecent. I protest against the inquiry on the grounds that the Local Government Board are interested parties and incompetent to do justice in the matter. I protest against the inquiry for another reason, which is found in the Act itself. I quote from Chief Baron Palles on page 7 in the Return—

> "The determination of the Board as to the increase of duties and fixing the increase of remuneration in due proportion to the increase of duties so determined, if made within jurisdiction, will bind the council and impose liability upon them whether the amount so determined be right or wrong; if, for instance, the increase in duties was in fact 20 per cent., and the Board determined that it was 50 per cent., and accordingly determined that the increase of remuneration should be equal to 50 per cent. of the former remuneration, that decision would bind the council."

Now it is obvious that Parliament never intended this injustice. This is a blot in the Act which must be removed before any inquiry can take place. My county council have recently held a meeting to consider this question of inquiry. They have acted with singular moderation, considering the provocation they have received. They have passed the following resolution—

> "In reply to the Local Government Board's request that we name a date for an inquiry into the question of the future remuneration of the county and deputy surveyors, it is hereby resolved that the Local Government Board, having previously fixed the remuneration of these officers illegally, as decided by the Court of Appeal, we hold that the Local Government Board is thereby prejudiced, and consequently in our opinion incapable of doing justice as between us and our officers; and we claim that the proposed inquiry be remitted to arbitrators selected by those interested."

If we are to have an inquiry, let us have an impartial inquiry in this case of Wexford as well as in the other cases. There will be no difficulty in finding arbitrators in Ireland who will command the confidence of both parties interested in this dispute, and whose decision will be accepted as final.

And now one word as regards the cost of this inquiry. We are told that the Local Government Board has no option but to charge us with the costs of the inquiry. Let me quote again from Chief Baron Palles—

> "Under Sub-section 3 of the Application of Enactments Order, the Local Government Board may direct the costs of the inquiry to be paid by councils, and such orders may be made rules of the High Court."

The Local Government Board may direct the costs of the inquiry to be paid by the local authorities, but there is no compulsion in the matter; the clause is purely permissive, and it is just as easy for the Local Government Board to direct that the costs of these inquiries shall not be paid by the local authorities as to direct that they shall. The costs can be defrayed out of public funds. Our fighting with the Local Government Board has already cost us in the county Wexford a considerable sum of money. As we have been declared in the right, we should be indemnified for the expense to which we have been put already, and if there is to be a further re-opening of the case, it should not be at our expense. I therefore claim on behalf of my county council, first, that the issue between us and the Local Government Board shall be decided by arbitration unless the Government will give me a pledge that we shall have the right of appeal in the event of our finding the result of the proposed inquiry unjust; secondly, that the expense of this contest so far, and the expense of any further inquiry or appeal from that inquiry, shall not be a charge upon the ratepayers of the county of Wexford. Consider for a moment what is the character of the county council which the Local Government Board invite you to attack. If it were an improvident council or an incompetent council, a dishonest or a self-seeking council, there might be some excuse for crippling it with law costs. I go to the Local Government Board itself for the character of the County Wexford County Council, and what does the Local Government Board say?

> "I am happy to state that the county council (of Wexford) and its finance committee appear to manage their business with judgment and discretion, and to exercise a careful supervision over the management and disbursement of the funds entrusted to their charge. I have only to add that the secretary's accounts have been most accurately and carefully kept.—W. Gibson, Auditor, Local Government Board Dublin; 8th February, 1901."

We have had a similar certificate of character on the conclusion of each year since the administration of the Local Government Act began, and this is the council which is to be penalised for its defence of the rights of local government in Ireland. I earnestly invite the attention of the Chief Secretary to this matter. I have now done with the case of the Wexford County Council. I leave it to the judgment of the House, and I leave it to the House to say if a body acting as the Local Government Board has acted is fit to be entrusted with the far-reaching powers conferred on it by the Act of 1898.

In conclusion, I wish to give expression to my views upon the general question of administration of local affairs in Ireland as affected by the Local Government Board. It is notorious that the Local Government Act has not fulfilled the promises which were made in its behalf. We were promised equal rights with England. We have been given nothing of the sort. Apart from the concession of the elective principle we have gained nothing. We are only doing now, at a vastly increased expenditure of time, and money, and energy and convenience, what was done before in a quarter the time and at half the cost. The business of Irish local administration has been enormously complicated, for no reason that I can discover except to enable the Local Government Board to posture as a sphinx. The time of our local councils is perpetually wasted in discussing Local Government Board conundrums, to which, very often, the Local Government Board itself cannot supply an answer. The councils have no control over their officers. The Local Government Board controls the officers. The Local Government Board is the master of the officers. The officers look to the Local Government Board and not to their councils, and this is destructive to local government. It is a notorious fact that we had no trouble with our officers until the Local Government Board sent out its ill-omened circular of August, 1899. Since the issue of that circular there has been unceasing trouble; that circular has cost the ratepayers of Ireland thousands of pounds. The object of the Local Government Board apparently is to establish a new garrison in Ireland of civil servants. They find that unless they can control the officers they will be unable to control the councils; hence their frantic endeavours to supplant the councils in the loyalty of their officers. I have said that thousands of pounds of the ratepayers' money have been spent on needless law since the issue of that circular. Thousands of pounds more will follow. This new law tax is only beginning to grow. One of these days, I propose to move for a Return giving the amount expended in law by Irish local bodies since the inception of the Local Government Act, and if I am granted this Return it will be a startling revelation as to the waste of money of the ratepayers.

On the whole, Sir, it seems to me that there is no way of dealing with this question except by the appointing of a Commission to inquire into the working of the Local Government Act in Ireland, into the operations of the Local Government Board, into the increased expense of administration, and into the status of Irish councils compared to English and Scotch, and to suggest remedies, if possible, for the condition of things which prevails with us; for, as things go now, Irish local government is becoming just as great a farce as it is a misnomer. We are growing sick of it, sick of continual dictation and interference. We have our own business to attend to, and we cannot submit to perpetual worrying by a clique of unknown officials without either responsibility or stake in the country, who pay no rates, who only raise them, and who apparently have as much knowledge of as they have sympathy with the people.

There are two courses which Irish local bodies are likely to be tempted to adopt. First to give up local government altogether, and to let the Local Government Board carry on the business and collect the rates, in which event I wish the Local Government Board joy of their undertaking; or, secondly, for the local bodies to come together, and join together and set the Local Government Board at defiance. This I think the better policy. If the local councils will go on in their own way, disregarding the Local Government Board, never minding Local Government Board circulars, letters, Sealed Orders and all the rest of their tomfoolery, never minding their inspectors or their auditors, the Local Government Board will be extremely angry, but it will be powerless in the face of a general policy to this effect. The Local Government Board may perhaps succeed in coercing a single board of guardians, but the Local Government Board cannot coerce an Irish county, much less an Irish province or combination of counties. My last word to the Government is, reform the Local Government Board. It is an anachronism in its present shape, and it must be changed. My advice to the Government is to make the Local Government Board representative and Irish—to introduce the elective principle into its constitution, and in that way to bring it into touch and sympathy with the people whose concerns it is now mismanaging. I would urge upon the Government not to delay, otherwise the Local Government Board will surely land them in further trouble. It has come to this now with us, that the Government must choose between the Local Government Board in its present shape and local government in Ireland, for the two cannot exist together.

MR. CULLINAN (Tipperary, S.) declared that the action which had been shown by the Courts to be illegal was not confined to Wexford. He had had communications from various councils showing that the Local Government Board had increased the salaries of officers by seventy-five per cent. over the original amounts, and fifty per cent. beyond the sum the councils were prepared to give. Surely the elected representatives of the people, who were mostly large ratepayers, living in the different counties, were the people who best understood the needs and requirements of the districts, and realised whether the duties of the officials had been increased to an extent to warrant such increases of salary. Take the case of the county surveyor in South Tipperary. His salary was £600 a year; the county council were willing to increase it by £100; but the Local Government Board stepped in and ordered a salary of £852 to be paid. The county council refused to pay it, they defeated the Local Government Board in the Courts; a few days afterwards the board withdrew from the matter, and nothing had been heard about it since. But what had been the consequence? The officials instead of being the servants, now wanted to be the masters. The county surveyor of South Tipperary attended the last meeting of the finance committee, and instead of accepting £800 a year declared he wanted £1,200 and would fight for it, That was the teaching of the Local Government Board. Officials were now telling county councils that they would do as they liked in regard to certain matters, and that in so doing they would have the protection of the Local Government Board. A question of great interest was whether those cases in which county and district councils had made arrangements with their officers under a false impression as to the real state of the law, would be reopened in consequence of the decision of the Court of Appeal. The Local Government Board would certainly have to be reformed. The Local Government Act would never work properly unless there was a change of administration. The board was composed of gentlemen taken exclusively from the landlord section of the community. Under the Local Government Act the occupiers, not the landlords, paid the greater portion of the rates, and certainly the section who paid the largest proportion of the rates ought to have the largest representation upon the central controlling body. What was the qualification of the gentleman who, immediately after the passing of the Act, was placed on the board in command of the councils? Simply that he was the leader of the landlord party in county Tipperary, and that when the Home Rule movement was strong in England, he came over and on every possible platform defamed his countrymen, and tried to prove their unworthiness to govern themselves. The medical officers, the poor-law inspectors, and the auditors, employed by the Local Government Board to carry out the Act, were either lawyers without briefs, doctors without practice, Orangemen, Army pensioners, or sons of Unionist representatives of Ulster. When some time ago a few representatives of the popular class were appointed on the board, and had to visit the different boards of guardians and the various institutions, there was never the slightest trouble with the officials or with the boards, simply because these gentlemen were in sympathy with the poor and with the representatives who had been elected.

Until 1880, boards of guardians in Ireland were controlled by the *ex officio* and landlord element. In 1880 the national element obtained the control, and when they came to discharge their duties they found the workhouses in the most disgraceful state—bad ventilation, unplastered walls, unceiled rooms, dirt and filth of every description, wretched straw heaps on the floor for the poor to sleep on, and dirty vessels out of which they had to take their food. That was the legacy bequeathed by the landlord element. The first step of the popular representatives was to improve this wretched system, but as soon as they did that the officials of the Local Government Board stepped in and declared that they were not doing half enough. The record of the board was one of discredit and disgrace. It pandered and played to an insignificant minority who were troublesome in Ireland. Any person with popular leanings who was connected with the board was bound to be victimised by the minority, as was proved at the last General Election, when a right hon. Gentleman lost his seat in this House because he went in for popularising the board with which he was connected. He would take as an instance the county of Tipperary, with which he was connected. It was the only county in Ireland which had two county councils. It was ordered that the gentleman, Mr. Bailey, who had been Grand Jury Secretary, should be secretary to both councils, but his manner of doing the business was so absurdly inefficient that on the plea of the work being too heavy he resigned the secretaryship of one, South Tipperary, and retained the other. He left the accounts in such a state of extreme confusion that it was necessary for the council to pass resolutions ordering him to employ an accountant to put things in order. In the end that was done. The secretary who was then appointed, Mr. Shee, soon had affairs in a satisfactory condition. But, what happened ? The auditor came down, and required that within a couple of days Mr. Shee should stand an examination by a Mr. Saunderson—son of the right hon. Gentleman opposite, who did not object to getting fat salaries for his friends and children. Then this Mr. Saunderson, who had passed no examination himself, and who would sneer at poor Irishmen because their countrymen supported them whilst they fought their battles in the House, examined Mr. Shee on the 22nd March, with the result that on the following 5th April there came down an order stating that Mr. Shee had not passed an examination, and the council should proceed to appoint another secretary. They found that his writing was bad, and that his spelling was not good. But the council's knowledge of Mr. Shee's capacity was such, that they pressed the Local Government Board to allow him a six months trial, at the end of which time the accounts and business of the council were put upon a footing of the most excellent order. Then came down an auditor (Mr. Courtney Croker), who himself had never passed an examination as auditor, and who made a note that the accounts showed the most careful supervision by Mr. Bailey—Mr. Bailey, who had left the accounts in the state which he had described, and who had never as much as seen them after that time. The Government persevered in rejecting Mr. Shee, notwithstanding the fact that men like General Massy, famous as Redan Massy, the chairman of the county council, and Mr. Grubb had proposed resolutions in favour of Mr. Shee's retention, and that those resolutions were supported by the members of the council, a representative body of men who he ventured to say were as competent in such a matter as any that could be found in an English or Scotch county. They represented the people, and had the interests of the country at heart. They were satisfied with Mr. Shee, yet they were told that the Local Government Board would have none of him. The board insisted that he should be called upon to resign ; threatened the council with a mandamus, with a Sealed Order, with legal proceedings of every description. Yet the council stood by Mr. Shee, and the consequence of the Conservative gentleman on the board holding to the same view was that the hands of the board had been stayed. They had not, however, given in, and their last contemptible resort, after failing to intimidate the council, was not to bring them into open court, for that would be too manly and honest a course, but to threaten that if he was retained any longer as secretary, the auditor would surcharge the members of the council. The explanation of all this was that Mr. Shee was a staunch Nationalist, whilst his predecessor was a staunch Unionist and Freemason. This gentleman, who was not competent to open accounts for them in South Tipperary, who could not read the minutes of the meetings properly, had been granted by the Local Government Board an increase of salary of £150 a year in North Tipperary. That was the kind of administration which it was necessary to expose, for he believed there were a great many English Members of the House who believed that there was in Ireland the same kind of local government as in England, where he was informed the county councils had practically a free hand in the management of their own affairs. In England the Local Government Board exercised a judicious control and did not unduly interfere with the county councils, but in Ireland they could not appoint or dismiss an officer, or even pay away £5, without first getting the permission of the hostile assembly in Dublin Castle. Those examinations had been instituted simply to disqualify Nationalists and force into office the nominees of the Local Government Board.

Why was it there was to be an examination of officers in Ireland and none in England ? It was an insult to the intelligence of the Irish county councils. Was there any general standard of examination, and would the right hon. Gentleman publish the questions which were put? As a matter of fact, there were different kinds of examinations adopted, for in some cases a very severe test was imposed, whilst in others candidates got through by a small conversation. It was an outrage to say that the County Council were not the best judges of who was best qualified to serve them as clerk, and they should not be interfered with by the Local Government Board. Why should these examinations not be the same as Civil Service examinations? Petty sessions clerks were given six months notice to prepare. Why should not council secretaries be given the same opportunities? He certainly thought it was an outrage to say that the County Council of South Tipperary were not the best judges as to who was best qualified to serve them as clerk, and they ought not to be interfered with by the Local Government Board. A good deal had been heard about the benefits the Local Government Act would confer upon Ireland by allowing the people to elect their own representatives, but all those councils were handcuffed by the instructions sent down by the Local Government Board. They had had a good deal of discussion in the House recently upon the South African war. At the time of the outbreak of the war the Colonial Secretary had said that the war was entered upon because the Government of the Transvaal would not give the Uitlanders the franchise, and place them in the same position as the burghers. They had spent a hundred millions and sacrificed thousands and thousands of lives to give freedom to the Uitlanders, but they treated the Nationalist majority in Ireland far worse than ever Mr. Kruger treated the Uitlanders. He maintained that the Government by their action in Ireland belied the excuse they gave for embarking on the war in South Africa. He was perfectly satisfied that when the right hon. the Chief Secretary, and possibly the Attorney General for Ireland, got up to reply, they would tell the House that the members of the Local Government Board were fine gentlemen, most competent gentlemen, and most honourable gentlemen. He was not going to say that the members of the Local Government Board were not honourable gentlemen in their own sphere; but he would certainly say that they were not honourable gentlemen in the sphere which they occupied as controlling the county and district councils of Ireland, in the interest of a section of the community, and in order to please an insignificant minority whenever it rattled upon the Orange drum. The cause of all these troubles in Ireland was the constitution of the Local Government Board; and it was perfectly useless to think that the Local Government Act would be popular in Ireland until the Government realised that they must do away with a Castle board, and substituted for it an elective body which would administer local government in the interests of the people. It was just as well that the Government and other hon. Members opposite should know that this tinkering with local government was not going to settle the question of complete self-government for Ireland. This tinkering with the Local Government Act was only meant to satisfy the Unionist representatives, to try to preserve for their sons and friends the plums of office, to keep what influence they had in their own hands, and to crush the popularly-elected councils.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.) thought that no one who had listened to the speech of the hon. Member who had just sat down could help coming to the conclusion that there was scarcely any exaggeration in anything that had been said from the Irish Benches as to the domineering spirit of the Irish Local Government Board. He thought that the Wexford case was an even more striking example of the action of the Local Government Board than that brought forward by the hon. Member for South Tipperary. He would recall some of the facts mentioned by the hon. Baronet. The Local Government Board, at least so their contention was, had, on the passing of the Act, to determine whether an increase of duty was imposed on any existing officer, and if so, to fix the increase of salary he was to receive in consequence of that increase of duty. Who would imagine that there was any difficulty in interpreting that instruction of the Local Government Act? The Local Government Board, having at its disposal a large amount of legal talent, should have made no great mistake in discharging their proper function. But what was the judgment of the Court of Appeal in Ireland on that point? It set forth that, instead of fixing the increase of salary to which these officers were entitled, they went on to revise all the old salaries so that if they came across any officer of the Grand Jury whom they thought insufficiently paid in the past, they took advantage of the Act to pay them a sufficiency in the future, although the Act gave them no such authority whatever. He congratulated the hon. Member for North Wexford on having had the prescience to ask for a Return giving the judgment of the Court of Appeal, because he was very suspicious of the acts of the agents of the Government in Ireland, and if that judgment had not been before the House the illegality committed by the Local Government Board might have been denied by the Chief Secretary on the authority of some of his underlings in Dublin Castle. A great hardship existed in the case of those councils which, unlike that of Wexford, did not carry their cases to the highest Court of the land. He thought that the question put by the hon. Member for South Tipperary ought to be put again and again to the Chief Secretary, namely, whether those councils on whom illegal salaries had been imposed were to be put to the expense and trouble of going, each of them, to the Court of Appeal to have these illegal salaries re-adjusted. He maintained that there had been a total disregard by the Local Government Board of the opinion of the new local bodies, although one might have imagined that quite a different course would have been pursued. The Unionist Government of England in setting up these local bodies by Act of Parliament presumably thought that they were competent for the discharge of the duties imposed upon them, and surely they ought to be treated with respect and confidence by the Local Government Board as competent for the discharge of these duties, but it was only in the last resort, and when compelled by legal proceedings, that the Local Government Board had acted according to law.

What was the procedure of Dublin Castle as illustrated by the case of the Wexford County Council? In August 1899, the Local Government Board brought to the knowledge of the county councils the fact that the salaries of the old grand jury officials would have to be revised, or, rather, that they would have to be increased or decreased according to the duties imposed on them in consequence of the passing of the Local Government Act. As might well be imagined, the county councils, having been only a few months in office, had a great deal to do; new and important duties had to be discharged, some of which, it was reasonable to suppose, they scarcely understood. At any rate they were hard at work when they received a circular from the Local Government Board, to which a great many of them gave no answer. They simply put the circular aside intending on a future day to make a full answer. Well, the Local Government Board received a communication from a county council official in regard to his salary, and the Board having heard only one side of the story, and without seeking for further information from the county council, issued a notice laying down that certain salaries were for the future to be paid by the county council to that officer, and if they did not pay such salary the officer would compel them to do so. The county council of Wexford woke up to the situation and submitted a series of reasons why the salary should not be increased. The Local Government Board themselves admitted that that list of reasons was of great importance and worthy of the greatest consideration. But, having that list of reasons before them, they actually wrote a month after, and three months before they issued the Sealed Order, and said that if they had got them sooner they would have taken them into consideration; meaning thereby that they could not take them into consideration because they received them too late. He thought that if the county councils in England were treated in that fashion by the English Local Government Board there would be an uproar in England and a demand for a change in the English Local Government Board. It was no wonder that Lord Justice Holmes, a gentleman who could not be accused of any Nationalist feeling or leaning, stated that the Wexford Council had taken a judicious course. He said—

> "It forwarded a statement of the reasons against the increase of salary, which, whether

> they were bad or good, were at least worthy of consideration. The reply to this document has caused me much surprise; and I feel myself bound to say that if it correctly reflects the spirit in which the Local Government Board has undertaken the important duties imposed upon it by the Act, no one can wonder if the result be friction and unpleasantness with the local authorities. Its purport is that if the arguments put forward by the council in support of their protest against the increased salary of the county surveyor and his assistant had been furnished to the Board in the previous autumn, when the views of the council were invited upon the claims of the officers, it would have weighed very carefully the council's opinion before deciding upon the increased salaries to be allowed, but that as the council did not intervene, either by supplying any statement of its views or by coming to an agreement with the officers, the Board had only to fulfil the obligations imposed by the sub-section."

Then Lord Justice Holmes went on to express his opinion that the Board's letter of April "must be regarded as a very curious contribution to official literature," which was another way of saying that it was a most incompetent document to issue to any local body. Was it any wonder that there were differences between the Local Government Board and the local bodies? Some of the details of this case were really amusing. One of the reasons given in a letter by the Local Government Board for holding to its decision to increase the salaries, was that after all to increase the salaries of the officers would not add a half-penny to the rates. What business had the Local Government Board to take into consideration whether it would add a half-penny or a penny to the rates? Their business was to act according to law. It appeared from the affidavit of Sir Henry Robinson that the county of Wexford required extreme skill and attention on the part of the county surveyors, because it had a large sea-board, with piers and harbours and several roads running down to strands and landing places, and that there were a number of important bridges. But the large sea-board and the piers and harbours and bridges were there before the Act of 1898 was passed, and the surveyor was obliged to do all that inspection before the passing of the Act; and yet this great Department actually indulged in that ridiculous ground of excuse for increasing the salary of the county surveyor. He wanted to draw attention to a claim made by the Local Government Board both in the Queen's Bench and in the Court of Appeal. That claim of the Local Government Board was that they were above the law. They said—"We are a great Department of State; we are like the Lord Lieutenant, or the Lord Chancellor in the distribution of legal patronage, and our acts, no matter what they are, cannot be inquired into in a court of law." In that case, as was pointed out by one of the counsel, if they declared Li Hung Chang to be an existing officer, entitled to an increase of salary, their order could not be investigated or set aside in a Court of law. All the judges of the Queen's Bench Division had decided against that contention, and the Court of Appeal had also unanimously decided against it; but the mere fact that such a claim was made by the Local Government Board in Ireland showed more clearly than anything else the spirit in which they administered a remedial Act of Parliament.

Speaking as an Irish Nationalist representative, he was of opinion that several good acts had been passed by this Parliament for Ireland, which, if they had been properly administered, would have done great good and settled probably great questions sooner than they would otherwise be. The Land Act of 1870 was, in his opinion, a great Act and contained great principles, and if it had been administered so as to give full effect to the intentions of Parliament they would never have seen the agitation of the last ten years. In the same way, if the Land Act of 1881 had been administered in a spirit calculated to give effect to the intention of its framers, they would never have seen the agitation which compelled the passing of all the Amendments of that Act. The truth was, that the best Acts might be passed with the best intentions, but as long as they left in Ireland a bureaucracy out of sympathy with those for whose benefit they were passed to administer these Acts, there would never be anything but failure. So also in regard to the Local Government Act. He did not agree with some of his colleagues in their criticisms of the Local Government Act. He thought that

Act did give to Ireland the same rights and privileges as the English Local Government Act gave to England, and in his opinion it was a great work of legislation, and he would not be candid or telling the truth if he did not say so. At the same time the Board which set to work to administer that Act was composed of persons out of all sympathy with the people, and with the spirit in which the Act was conceived, and were consequently determined in their own minds to frustrate the objects of that Act and all other remedial measures passed for Ireland. He, for one, deplored this state of things, and he must confess that he despaired of seeing any remedy. This led up to a bigger question than that they were now discussing, namely, national self-government for Ireland. As long as Home Rule and the management of Irish national affairs by a free Parliament elected by the people in Ireland was refused, they must maintain these English agents in Ireland, for no matter who went into Dublin Castle he was speedily corrupted. Therefore, he had not the least hope, from these debates, that any radical reformation would ensue. All the same, it was their duty to make perfectly plain the state of affairs that now existed, and if that state of affairs could be defended he would be greatly surprised.

LORD EDMOND FITZMAURICE (Wiltshire, Cricklade) said he wished to say a few words on this subject, because when the Irish Local Government Bill was passing through the House he called the attention of the Committee on the Bill to the extraordinary character of the clauses that were practically the subject of debate now, especially when compared with English legislation. He ventured to prophesy that at a very early stage trouble would arise in Ireland over these clauses, and that was what had occurred, although he would rather have been a false prophet in the case. As a matter of fact, it was perfectly clear that these wide clauses, giving such large powers to the Local Government Board, had already been a cause of mischief—a greater cause of mischief even than he anticipated. The Irish Local Government Board apparently by some of these unfortunate motives had failed to administer the Act properly, and had used the powers given to them to put a construction upon the Act which had been questioned before the law. As a matter of general principle, he rejoiced when a court of law put its foot down against the most gigantic attempt ever made to set up administrative law, a law conceived in the secret rooms of a Government Department, to over-ride the law of the land. There were clauses and schedules in the Irish Local Government Bill which undoubtedly did arm the Board with gigantic powers, and he and others had at the time pointed out that that was an unprecedented attempt to set up administrative law as distinct from the law of the land. He must say that he thought the Government had been successful in doing so, and that it would not be in the power of a court of law to escape from the loose declarations in the Bill, by which apparently it was put in the power of the Local Government Board to do anything in the world in bringing the Act into operation. But seemingly a limit had been reached, and an Irish Court had been found strong enough to say—thus far and no farther. He ventured to say that the Irish Court had rendered a service not only to Ireland but to England, because Government boards had done injury to the public by obscure amendments of administrative law.

He would take the particular case under discussion. The County Council of Wexford, it appeared, imposed certain new duties upon one of its officers, and that officer, under the terms of the Local Government Act, was entitled to have his salary increased in proportion to the new work placed upon him, and if he was dissatisfied with the salary offered, he had a right to go to the Local Government Board as a sort of arbitrator. But the Local Government Board attempted to go beyond that, and said that they would inquire into the whole question of the salary, and would practically decide, not only whether the percentage of increase of salary represented the percentage of increase of work, but whether the original salary was or was not adequate. Now, the Government should trust the county councils to arrange these questions of salary. If they could not trust them in matters of that kind they might as well not have called the county councils into being at all. The one chance of improving the administration of Ireland was to trust the local bodies which had been called into existence. Of course there would be mistakes; there were mistakes even in local bodies outside Ireland. After all, if they could not trust the county councils, whom were they going to trust? These were the most important of all the local bodies, and the bodies to which all of them looked to lay the foundation of a sound public opinion in Ireland. They on that side of the House looked to the county councils of Ireland as paving the way to something, as they thought, larger, higher, and better—to what they called Home Rule. They knew that hon. Members on the Government side of the House did not believe in that view, but looked to the county councils as being able to do such great things for administration in Ireland as to make Home Rule unnecessary. It was part of the great plan to kill Home Rule in Ireland by concessions and kindness; but how were they going to do that unless they treated these local bodies which they had created with some amount of confidence and goodwill? After all, what was it that these county councils wanted? Who were the officers of these councils? There was no chief constable, because the police were entirely centralised; and there was no county medical officer of health. The only leading officers were the county clerk, the county treasurer, and the county surveyor. Did they mean to tell him that Ireland was such a backward country that they could not trust the Irish county councils to settle the salaries of these three officers? If they were not able to do that, what were they fit for? He agreed with what fell from the hon. Member for North Dublin, that a strict eye must be kept on the administration of this Act, for it was a fact that whenever a Bill was placed on the Statute Book there were, at headquarters in Dublin, a set of men whose object was administratively to reduce and, if possible, destroy the wise concessions to Ireland which had been made in this House either by a Liberal or a Tory Government—the only difference being that they regarded the Liberals as enemies and the Unionists as traitors to their cause when they made any concession. In his opinion the hon. Baronet was perfectly justified in bringing up this case. He remembered when he last had the honour of a seat in the House there was an inquiry as to the Irish Board of Works, which was shown to be determined to stand in the way of any reform or of being reformed itself, and the Commission recommended what ought to be done. That was during Mr. Gladstone's first administration; but when Mr. Gladstone came into power again the Board of Works was just exactly as it was when the Commission reported upon it. What was true of the Irish Board of Works was true of other bodies. There was nothing in the world so difficult to fight as the accumulated prejudices of a Government Department. The departmental official was always there; the parliamentary official came and went. If the permanent official only lasted long enough he was bound to outlive the Parliamentary official. He did not attack the Chief Secretary, because he was aware of the difficulties which the right hon. Gentleman had to face; but whether they were favourable to our rule or not, it was necessary to make Dublin Castle understand that when Parliament passed an Act it was intended that the officials at the Castle should obey the Act in the spirit as well as in the letter. In nine cases out of ten, though the officials carried out an Act to the letter, they never carried it out in the spirit. He considered the establishment of the county councils in Ireland the greatest reform which had been placed on the Statute Book for ten or fifteen years, and everyone should unite in seeing that the benefits that Parliament decided three years previously should be granted to Ireland should not be given with one hand and taken away with the other.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): The noble Lord will forgive me for saying that his speech was not so closely addressed to the question before the House as some of those to which we have listened in the course of this debate. It was rather in the nature of a disquisition into the nature of government in Ireland. The noble Lord told me he brought no charge against myself or my predecessors, but he drew a gloomy picture of Irish officials banded together for the purpose of destroying the benefits just given by this Parliament to Ireland. He said that the Local Government Board was inspired by unfortunate prejudices. I hope to prove that in this matter the Local Government Board has been inspired solely by the motive of discharging the strict obligations imposed upon it by this House in the year 1898, and I can prove that out of a speech to which we have listened this evening—the speech of the hon. Baronet who brought this matter before us this evening. I was much struck by a sentence which fell from him towards the end of his speech. He said in the most emphatic terms, "We are bound to have the Act amended." That is the whole point. This attack, which I admit is justified, against the Local Government Board, is founded upon a mistake in the Act of 1898. It is an attack against provisions which are vital to the Act, and in the absence of which the Act never would have been passed by this House or any similar assembly.

Let me come direct to the point. In the Local Government Act of 1898 there is one part—part 8—which is specifically labelled "Transitory Provisions." The Local Government Act of 1898 effected a revolution in the government of Ireland. It transferred from the grand juries greater powers than had ever been held by similar bodies in the country. Almost all power of local government had accumulated in 200 years in the hands of the grand juries, and those powers were transferred to elective bodies. No such Act could have been passed without providing protection for the officers who had been employed by the grand juries; and in these transitory provisions it was provided that the officers who had served the grand juries—secretaries, surveyors, and others,—should have certain rights, after the period of a year, as they were bound to go on serving so that they should not embarrass the new body by immediate resignation. They were to serve on at the same salary, and for any increase of duty they were to have an increase of emolument, and the Local Government Board, and no other body, was to determine the increased emolument. That is in the Act, and if that is desired to be altered, hon. Members must come into the House and argue that the law is faulty.

LORD EDMOND FITZMAURICE: That is quite understood, but my point was that the Local Government Board went beyond that. They tried to gauge the salary without going into the question of whether the percentage of increased emolument represented the percentage of increased work, and it was decided by the Irish courts that their action was illegal.

MR. WYNDHAM: I was coming to that immediately. It was for that reason that the hon. Baronet who opened the discussion was driven to the conclusion that until the Act was amended nothing could be done. I can go as far as anybody in believing that when you give power to local bodies you should not wreck that power with unnecessary restraints, but this is not an unnecessary restraint. This is a transitory provision similar to the provisions embodied in the English Act, and which is always embodied in Acts of this kind. It might be galling to have to employ a man whom you do not like, or to have to pension him off at Civil Service rates in order to employ the man you prefer. But this is part of the necessary sacrifice which must be made in order to carry through a great revolutionary and beneficial change in local government. It was put up with in this country without a murmur, and also in a great part of Ireland; and where objection is taken it is taken in order to make another attack on the Local Government Board—["Certainly not"]—because it embodies in the minds of hon. Members the emblem of British rule. [Cries of "British misrule."] I am not surprised to hear that cheer, but how factious is this attack. The Vice-President of the Local Government Board, who is principally arraigned, is a distinguished Irishman and the son of a distinguished Irishman. He is a man who enjoys the warm respect of most Irishmen; and he deserves that respect, for the energy and devotion with which he applied himself to the work placed on the Local Government Board when called upon to interpret and to administer this great Act. In these difficult two years in every act he has been considerate, and his every word has been courteous. Yet the action of the Local Government Board is called into question as though he was naturally inclined to wreck the Act.

Let me come at once to the charge that is brought against the Board. The action of the Local Government Board is arraigned because it was illegal, and also because its action has been hasty, arrogant, and unjust, inasmuch as it has imposed a charge on the Irish ratepayers which it was not justified in imposing, and which was not entertained by the framers of the Act. I feel the charge of illegality, but I am not one of those who ask this House to constitute itself into a Court of Appeal, and I shall say little about that, but to the charge of illegality there has been added the charge that the actions of the Board have been hasty, arrogant, and unjust. I think as to the illegality I plead guilty at once, but I may remark upon this point, as the hon. Baronet upon the point of illegality addressed himself exclusively to English Members of the House, who may be horrified to hear that a great public department has been cast in the High Court of Appeal in Ireland, that consideration should be given to the circumstances. The Lord Chief Justice, who gave the judgment, insisted upon the great heaviness of the burden thrown on the Local Government Board in its duty of interpreting for the first time and applying to the whole of Ireland this new law. It is a fact that during many months that Department, which has been taunted with neglecting its legal work, had to write 3,000 official letters per week on matters involved in the Act, and it was on one of those letters that the Local Government Board was cast. When the case was brought before the court of first instance it was unanimously decided that the Local Government Board was technically right, and I need not labour the point of illegality further than to say that the House must understand that it does not follow because the Local Government Board was wrong on this occasion that therefore the county councils are to decide as to the salaries of the existing officers. The legal points were very ably argued, but few were decided. The Lord Chief Baron, Lord Justice FitzGibbon, and Lord Justice Holmes all agreed in saying that the Local Government Board under the Act had final, conclusive, and uncontrolled power to determine whether there had been an increase of duty or not. And if the Local Government Board has that right and is charged with that duty, who is to decide the increase of salary for such increase of duty? The three judges of the Court of Appeal also agreed that that duty was obligatory on the Local Government Board. It might be asked, if upon these two great questions of substance the Local Government Board was in the right, why was their action found to be illegal? Because the learned judges decided—and, I think, quite rightly—that the decision of the Local Government Board was based upon a wrong principle. The ground upon which they were cast was that in the terms of the letter they so expressed themselves as to leave the judges of the Court of Appeal no option but to believe that they had taken into account the adequacy of the original salary as well as the amount of increase and the emolument for that increase. That is the whole matter.

I accept the decision of the High Court, but I must tell hon. Members that this is not as a matter of fact the principle which guides the action of the Local Government Board. The words in the Act are not too clear. They are that these officers should receive such increase or diminution of remuneration in proportion to the increase or diminution of their duties as the Local Government Board might determine. That is not a very clear phrase, and the judges in the High Court gave various views as to what such proportion would mean. The intention of the provision, however, is clear. The intention was that the Local Government Board, and no one else, should have a discretion to give added remuneration which should be more or less proportionate to the added work imposed on the officers. I have only dwelt upon this legal point to show what a melancholy prospect is before us if the hon. Baronet persists in his determination to test every one of these technicalities in a court of law, and to make the Irish ratepayer pay for that intellectual exercise. But is the action of the Local Government Board in honestly attempting to carry out the duty placed upon it arrogant or unjust? The Act was passed in August, 1898, and declared that the new salaries of these officers were to begin from 1st April, 1899. From that date they were entitled to increase of pay, and the Local Government Board was responsible to Parliament and to eternal justice to see they received their due. It was not until August, 1899, that a courteous letter, to which no reference has been made, was addressed to the county councils of Ireland. That letter points out to the county councils the provisions existing in the Act, and invites their co-operation in giving any information at their command in order to assist the Local Government Board. That was a year after the passing of the Act. The hon. Member read a letter which, for the purposes of my argument, I am glad to find is in close juxtaposition to the affidavit of Mr. Piggot. This letter was written a year after the other letter to which I have referred, and two years after the passing of the Act, and Mr. Piggot swears in his affidavit that it is especially inequitable to fix these salaries on *ex parte* evidence. That is a year after the expression of their views was invited. From the Wexford County Council we have received no assistance or expression of views on this subject whatever.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE: They replied in December of the same year.

MR. WYNDHAM: Then that letter is not printed in the Return. But I take the hon. Baronet's word. In December the Wexford County Council demurred altogether to the course the Local Government Board was taking. How many of these officers are there in Ireland? There are thirty-three secretaries, thirty-three surveyors, and 170 assistant surveyors, the duties of the surveyors and assistant surveyors being to inspect the roads in the counties of Ireland. Ten counties in Ireland, not on the motion of the Local Government Board, but of their own free will, came to an agreement with all their officers which entirely fulfilled all the intentions of the Act.

MR. CLANCY: In consequence of an illegal circular.

MR. WYNDHAM: The circular was not illegal, and the hon. Member is quite in error in supposing that the counties to which I have referred acted on the suggestion of the Local Government Board.

MR. CLANCY: It was on the basis of the circular of the 7th February that the Court of Appeal decided that the Local Government Board had committed an illegality, and that was the circular which dictated the agreement to which the right hon. Gentleman refers.

MR. WYNDHAM: I say that that is not so. The circular of the 7th February was the document which led the Court to hold that our action was illegal, but I say that ten county councils in Ireland agreed with all their officers irrespective of and anterior to the issue of the views of the Local Government Board; seven other counties came to an agreement with their officers at a time when I am not sure whether or not they were in possession of the views of the Board; six counties undoubtedly made agreements in accordance with the terms issued by the Board; and ten counties refused to act in accordance with the wishes of the Board. Indeed, the circular of the Board, which is chiefly impugned, was largely based upon the terms of the agreements which had been arrived at by the various counties in Ireland, and especially in the case of the assistant surveyors. I would point out that under the grand juries the assistant surveyors with one or two exceptions, had the same emoluments—namely, £80 a year; but by voluntary agreement county Cavan gave its assistant surveyor £170; county Dublin, £150; county Meath, £160; county Galway, £120; county Tipperary, one £200, and two others £140; and so forth. By voluntary agreement these counties gave higher salaries than that to which the hon. Baronet takes such exception. We did not take the highest of those, but we took £150 as the maximum and £120 as the minimum, and we felt that the discretion which we believe we have ought to be exercised within those limits. Under the grand juries the assistant surveyors, who had uniform duties and uniform salaries, had to inspect the roads twice and to make two reports to the grand juries each year. When this Act was passed their work was doubled, because instead of two meetings per year of the grand juries, it provided for four meetings of the county councils, and, therefore, four inspections of the roads, four reports, and so on. On that ground the Local Government Board undoubtedly took mileage into account, because if the work was doubled the man who travelled most miles had a larger increase of work than the man who travelled a smaller number of miles. Was it unreasonable to say that the man who had 800 additional miles to do should have £30 a year more than the man who did only 500 miles? The officer upon whose case these proceedings were taken by the Wexford County Council had to inspect 554½ miles of roads. The effect of doubling his work was therefore to impose upon him the duty of inspecting an extra 1,109 miles. For that his salary was raised by the Local Government Board from £80 to £150. I doubt whether anybody would say we had gone beyond the actual dictates of common justice or even been guilty of a technical illegality if they understood that that is the whole head and front of our offending. We were bound to take the action we did. We based it upon our construction of the Act, and fixed the scale upon the agreements voluntarily come to by various county councils, and, above all, upon the fact of the increased duties which we were directed by the Act to take into account when fixing these increases of salary. We may have been guilty of a technical illegality, but I doubt whether anybody with justice can say that the action of the Board was at all precipitate, arrogant, or unjust towards the ratepayers of Ireland. We did break the letter of the law, but the Wexford County Council and the hon. Members opposite are seeking that we should break the spirit of the law. ["No."] Yes, for what are the pleas which have been advanced? They are that the old salaries were ample even though the men have to make four inspections instead of two. [Hear, hear.] That proves my whole contention. That is precisely what we are precluded from doing by the explicit provisions of this Act. Hon. Members from Ireland are asking, and the hon. Baronet is driven by his own argument to ask, that we should repeal certain provisions of the Act. Correspondence on this matter went on in courteous terms, and it was not until July, 1900, two years after the passing of the Act, that the Local Government Board issued a mandate to say that these gentlemen were to receive the money due to them for fifteen months and guaranteed by Parliament.

I do not know that I should labour the matter any more. I would ask the hon. Baronet to consider where we now stand. I have said enough on the legal point involved to show that we could go to law about every phrase and technical point in the Act; but surely that would not be a wise thing to do. We are to have an inquiry into the Wexford case, and I suggest that it should be treated as a test case, and, if it should turn out that the Local Government Board have made some error in their calculation, of course the Local Government Board will take that into account. But, whatever happens, nothing can alter the fact that the officers who have honourably served the grand jury are entitled to continued employment at the same emolument and to increased emolument for increased duty, and are entitled to retire on pensions calculated on the Civil Service scale. These propositions embody the substance of my contention; all the rest is form and technicality, upon which may be opened an almost illimitable vista of litigation. I hope the hon. Baronet will not encourage those who trust in him to take so disastrous a course. When is an existing officer not an existing officer, which proposition is not a rule of three sum, and if not, why not—these are questions of the deepest speculative interest; but I doubt whether the Irish people should be called upon to pay for their elucidation.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said he had seldom listened to a more characteristic speech from an Irish Secretary than that which they had just heard. At the end of his speech and in the course of an eloquent appeal to the hon. Baronet who had earned the thanks of every county council in Ireland in respect of the action he had taken on this question, the right hon. Gentleman declared that he did not understand the clause under which the operations had been carried on so long. It had been argued in a court of law, and the judges had been utterly unable to understand what it meant. In the long debates which took place when the Local Government Act was before the House he ventured to say that it was a badly drafted Act, and that some of the provisions—and this would apply also to the orders and rules which had since been made—would lead to enormous and endless litigation in Ireland. He thought the prophecy he then made had been more than justified by the speech to which they had listened.

He came now to the substance of the speech. What did the Chief Secretary say at the very outset? He admitted frankly that the action of the Local Government Board was illegal, but he contended that that illegality was a question of form and not of substance. The statements which the right hon. Gentleman made with regard to the principle on which the Local Government Board acted on these occasions were absolutely contradicted by the judgment of the learned judges in the Court of Appeal. The Chief Secretary went on to say that certain action would be legal but idiotic—rather an extraordinary phrase. In fact his speech bristled with extraordinary phrases. The hon. Member contended that the action of the Local Government Board had been illegal and idiotic, because they not only fixed these salaries without proper local inquiry and without proper consultation of the county councils, but in their eagerness to do so they broke the law. Undoubtedly the Act conferred excessive powers on the Local Government Board of Ireland. That was one of the blots of the Act. He raised that question on the Second Reading and again several times in Committee. He complained that the Act as drafted conferred on the Local Government Board—a body utterly out of touch with and irresponsible to the people of the country—powers enormously in excess of those conferred on the Local Government Board of England, which was directly responsible to the representatives of the people, and which would never dream of entering on the career of dictatorial assertion of its powers which was practised constantly by the Local Government Board of Ireland. He ventured to say that if the Act was passed in that form they would find in Ireland before it had been working long a revolt on the part of the population against its excessive powers. That was exactly what had happened. The Chief Secretary had entered into a long argument to show in reference to the increase of salaries and the other acts complained of that the Local Government Board had simply done its duty and carried out the law. The whole question was the spirit in which they had carried out the law, and the discretion which they had shown. Nobody objected to any official in Ireland left by the grand jury obtaining a just increase of salary in respect of a real increase of work. He believed there was not a single county council in Ireland which had raised any objection. What they objected to was that the Local Government Board had approached the consideration of this question in a spirit of partisanship, and that they had in many cases ignored the fair and reasonable opinion of the councils. By approaching the consideration of this question in a spirit of partisanship they had stirred up all this trouble. They ought not to give to the Local Government Board in Ireland so wide a discretion as to say that they were entitled to raise the salary of any officer employed by any local body in Ireland without considering local feeling and without consultation with the local representatives of the people who were entitled to form an opinion on the subject. The local bodies who had to find the money were the only men in a position to know what increase there had been in the duties, and this action on the part of the Local Government Board would almost lead to a revolt in any other country in the world but Ireland.

He would turn for a moment to the assertion made by the Chief Secretary, in which he laid down the principle on which the Local Government Board considered these salaries. He distinctly understood him to say that this did not involve going back upon the question as to whether the officers had been paid previously too much or not. Here was an extract from the judgment given by Lord Justice Fitzgibbon—

"I am certain of the fact upon the evidence, and it is the ground of my decision, that the

Board assumed the jurisdiction of considering the existing remuneration for the existing duties, and to lay down scales of payment for the future which were to regulate the pay for the old as well as for the new duties."

It was clear from this evidence that the board did assume the discretion which the Chief Secretary now denied. The same principle appeared to have been adopted in the case of county surveyors, and yet the Chief Secretary came down there and declared that there was no foundation for that statement. Another judge—Lord Justice Holmes—said—

"The Board has recast and revised old salaries."

That was what the Chief Secretary said they never did.

MR. WYNDHAM: I stated that although the terms of their letter which was laid before the judges drove them to that conclusion, really as a matter of fact the Board did not act in that way.

MR. DILLON said he saw in the Chief Secretary's speech abundant evidence of what they were to expect from him, and he was going to be the mouthpiece and conduit pipe for the officials of Dublin Castle. It was stated that there was not a shred of evidence to show that the Board had acted upon any other principle than that which he had stated, and yet they were asked to ignore the opinion of two judges and accept the statement of the Chief Secretary.

Coming to the question of discretion on the part of the Local Government Board, he heard the Chief Secretary state that by a calculation it was found that the county surveyors had to inspect twice as many roads as before. What evidence was there of that? None at all. He was not a county councillor, but he was assured by his colleagues who were members of these councils that there was no foundation for that statement. There was no provision in the Act requiring the road inspectors to go over the road twice as often as they did before. All the extra work they had to do was to attend the meetings of the councils four times a year, instead of twice under the Grand Jury system. On that point he preferred to take the information of his own experienced colleagues rather than the opinion of the Chief Secretary. The Local Government Board having, according to the Chief Secretary himself, interpreted this extraordinary clause, drafted as it was in a way which no human being could understand, in the sense of giving them the widest possible discretion, had exercised that discretion in the silliest and most idiotic way possible. The complaints on this score were made not only by the Nationalist Councils, but also by the councils on which the Unionists were in power. They had heard of the Tipperary and Wexford County Councils, which could compare with any county councils for administrative efficiency. But let them take the case of the county council of Derry. (He might say parenthetically that the Northern counties cut down the salaries of their officers to half what was given in the South). The Local Government Board declared in their knowledge and wisdom that the secretary of this council should get a large increase of salary on account of his increased work. But in this case the worthy man had never done anything at all. He was one of the class of *Rois fainéants* or "dead heads" under the old grand jury men, who did very little themselves, but who sweated some poor devil at £100 a year to do their work for them. This intelligent gentleman hardly did anything but sign his name, and yet the Local Government Board ordered his salary to be increased 50 per cent. on account of the increase of his labours! He never did any duty and never wanted to do any duty. There was another bitter dispute in the case of the secretary of the Antrim County Council. He alluded to these cases to show that this was not a party question. The substance of complaint was that the Local Government Board were given this power of descretion, and that they used it in a partisan, unfair, and outrageous manner. In the Wexford case the Local Government Board did not take sufficient pains to consult the men on the spot who knew the circumstances of the case, and who had to provide the salaries, and when their views were before the Board they treated the council with impertinence and neglect. It was idle for the Chief Secretary to fall back on the letter of the law in this case. He admitted that he was unable to tell what that was; but, even supposing it was quite clear, the letter of the law was nothing as compared with the administration. Would the Chief Secretary contend that the Local Government Board could so far exercise this power of discretion, as to go about the country doubling and trebling the salaries of officials? The Local Government Board had the power and discretion to do that, and would the Chief Secretary defend such action? Before exercising their discretion in this case, the Local Government Board should have hesitated, and thought twice, and three times, rather than come into collision with popular sentiment in the country, unless they were convinced that deliberately and of set purpose the representatives of the ratepayers meant to penalise and hunt down some old officials. He was of opinion that the Irish county councils in the South as well as in the north approached this question of dealing with existing officers in an honest spirit, and with a really sincere desire to carry out the spirit of the Act. The late Chief Secretary had said that this action of the Local Government Board had been taken under provisions in the Act to which the Irish party had assented. That was absolutely untrue. The Irish Members protested against all these provisions.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): I affirm most distinctly that we were pressed by the Irish Members to give more favourable terms to these officers.

MR. DILLON: I deny that that was the attitude of the Irish party.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): And I affirm most distinctly that we proposed a dozen Amendments in the contrary direction.

MR. DILLON said the late Chief Secretary was wrong in attributing to the Irish party any desire to press for more favourable terms. What that party did was to appeal to the Government to extend to other officials the same treatment as was proposed to be given to the old grand jury officials. The Irish Members always protested against the giving of this extravagant power to the Local Government Board, and as far as he was concerned himself he could quote for the House an extract from the speech he delivered on the Bill, in which he warned the Government that this clause would lead to endless litigation and to something like revolt on the part of the local bodies. The Chief Secretary now challenged them as to what they would do in this case, and wanted to know would they take it to a higher court. He again warned the Government of the danger of arousing in Ireland such a combination on the part of the councils as would make the working of the machinery of this Act very difficult. The Chief Secretary argued that there should be some ruling body to decide these matters. That might be admitted, but while the Bill was passing through the House the Irish Members warned the Government that if they packed the Local Government Board in the interests of the landlord party and the old grand jurors it would be sure to provoke a collision. That was what had been done by the Government. There was no representative of the people on the Local Government Board. But the Government had brought in to assist in the working of the Act a representative of the landlord class instinct with all the bitterness of that class—a gentleman, moreover, who had denounced the Act just at the time it was being passed, and even after he had been appointed, as an Act that had been so badly drawn that no human being could understand it. The Board would always remain incompetent in the present atmosphere of Dublin Castle. If the Government had wanted to give the Act a chance of working what they should have done would have been to say, "Here, we are going to work a great popular machinery. Let us bring in on the Board two nominative gentlemen—(the Irish Members would rather have had them elective)—not Orange landlords, but two popular gentlemen who, without salary, will act along with the Board and keep it in touch with the local bodies." If the Government had done that, none of those troubles would have arisen, because these popular gentlemen who were in touch with popular sentiment would have kept the Board straight. The condition of Ireland was peculiar, and it was perfectly clear that the Local Government Board was not responsive to popular opinion, and that the local bodies had no more influence on the Board in Dublin Castle than on the Yamen. Therefore, he maintained that in Ireland they had a totally different condition of things to deal with from what they had in England, and if the Government wanted to work the system of local government in Ireland smoothly and successfully they should bring the Local Government Board more into touch with popular sentiment. The Local Government Board was already a Department of Dublin Castle,, and as such in the existing atmosphere of Dublin Castle, was incompetent to work the machinery of an Act of this kind. When the Government nominated Mr. Bagenal to the Local Government Board, why did not they also nominate representatives of the Nationalist sections in the country ? If they had done that none of these troubles would have arisen. The Chief Secretary knew that the conditions in Ireland were peculiar. He knew that the Local Government Board was not responsible to Irish public opinion, and treated with contempt the views of the Irish Nationalist Members. Therefore if the Government had wished to work this Act successfully they should have appointed to the Local Government Board some representatives of popular opinion in Ireland.

In conclusion he would refer to one other case, that of Mr. Nicholas Shee, the secretary of the county council of South Tipperary. The Chief Secretary gave this case the go-by, probably because he was ashamed of the action of the Local Government Board. What happened in this case ? Mr. Shee was a Nationalist, and a most respectable farmer in the County Tipperary. He was elected secretary of the county council against the opposition of the Unionist Members. He put the affairs of the Council on a business footing, and the Local Government Board refused, against the wishes of all sections in the Council, to sanction his appointment on the ground that he was not competent. A more grotesque piece of oppression he never heard of. The Local Government Board sent down the son of Colonel Saunderson to examine Mr. Shee, the secretary to this council. They might as well send the grand-master of an Orange Lodge in Belfast to examine a Catholic priest, and see if he was qualified. This young gentleman was sent down to examine a prominent Nationalist of Tipperary, and to report upon his qualifications. The hon. Member protested against the introduction of this system of examination in Ireland, when there was no examination in England for corresponding positions. What right had the Government to put upon the councils a test which was not exacted from the old grand juries when they were administering the country ? He hoped the Chief Secretary would give some explanation of this case. The treatment of Mr. Shee was grotesque and outrageous, and he was compelled to think, unless the spirit and disposition of the Local Government Board was altered, they would never have a smooth or successful working of the machinery of Local Government in Ireland.

SIR E. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT (Sheffield, Ecclesall) : I venture to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, having regard to the lateness of the hour, whether it would not be possible to find an opportunity for discussing the subject of affairs in the Far East on the third reading of the Appropriation Bill on Thursday.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.) : Of course it does not in any way rest with the Government to say what topics should be taken on the Third Reading of the Appropriation Bill. That depends on the Members of the House of Commons, and the order in which they are called upon to take part in the debate. The hon. Gentleman has asked whether I might not ask the House to meet earlier on Thursday, so as to increase the time given for the Third Reading. I think such a course would be very unusual, if not unprecedented ; but I believe it would be possible, perhaps, at the cost of some inconvenience, to try to get the House of Lords to meet on Friday morning instead of Thursday night. If that is thought desirable, and if I can make that arrangement on separating to-night, we might take the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill now, without a division. I am sure the House will recognise that I am doing my best to meet their desire for the discussion of the Appropriation Bill, and also that all that can be done has been done by the Government.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): I think the suggestion that has come from the First Lord of the Treasury is a reasonable one. The debate has not been so long and exhaustive as we could have wished. Indeed, I know that a number of my hon. friends here were anxious to take part in the discussion. Still one must recognise the fact that the debate has been a substantial and important one. But we are dissatisfied with the result of the debate so far as the answer of the Government is concerned, and therefore we will mark our dissatisfaction by taking a vote. It will really be a division on the question of Local Government in Ireland which has been raised. We can reserve until the Third Reading, on Thursday, such other topics of discussion as may remain. Under these circumstances I would suggest to my hon. friends who feel keenly on this subject that it would be right for us now to take a division.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 143; Noes, 51. (Division List No. 107.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlexF.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Asher, Alexander
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt.JoscelineFitzRoy
Bain, Col. James Robert
Balfour,Rt.Hn. A. J.(Manch'r
Balfour,RtHnGeraldW(Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Beach,Rt.Hn.SirMH.(Bristol)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bill, Charles
Bond, Edward
Brassey, Albert
Brigg, John
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Caldwell, James
Cavendish,V.C.W(Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J. (Birm.
Chamberlain,JAusten(Worc'r
Charrington Spencer
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow
Cranborne, Viscount
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davies,SirHoratioD(Chatham
Digby, John K. D. (Wingfield
Dimsdale, SirJosephCockfield-
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Fellowes, Hn. AilwynEdward
Fielden, EdwardBrocklehurst
Finlay, Sir Robt. Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Rbt. Penrose-
Fitzroy,Hon.EdwardAlgernon
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Godson,SirAugustusFrederi'k
Goschen,Hon.George Joachim
Green,WalfordD(Wednesbu'y
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hamilton,RtHnLordG.(Mid'x
Hardy,Laurence(KentAshfo'd
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris,F.Leverton(Tynemo'th
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne, Rt. Hn. C. Seale-
Heath,James(Staffords.N.W.)
Henderson, Alexander
Hope,J.F.(Sheffield,Brightsi'e
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Jones,William (Carnarvonsh.)
Keswick, William
Knowles, Lees
Lambert, George
Lambton,Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar
Lawrence, William F.
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Levy, Maurice
Long,Col.CharlesW(Evesham)
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Bristol,S
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Lucas,Col. Francis(Lowestoft)
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Killop,James(Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Massey-Mainwaring,Hn.W.F
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriessh.
Milton, Viscount
Milward, Colonel Victor
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, Robert J. (Shropshire)
Morgan, D. J.(Walthamstow)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. G. (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Newdigate,Francis Alexander
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pemberton, John S. G.
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rankin, Sir James
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Rentoul, James Alexander
Ridley, Mat. W. (Stalybridge
Ritchie,Rt.Hn.Chas.Thomson
Robertson,Herbert (Hackney)
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. SamuelAlexander
Shaw-Stewart,M.H.(Renfrew)
Smith, Jas. Parker (Lanarks.)
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Webb, Col. William George
Welby,Lt.-Col.ACE(Taunton
Whiteley,H.(Ashton undLyne
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson,A.Stanley(York,E.R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wodehouse,Rt.Hn.E.R.(Bath
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young,Commander (Berks,E.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Walrond and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Ambbrose, Robert
Burke, E. Haviland-
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Clancy, John Joseph
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Delany, William
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Hayden, John Patrick
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Joyce, Michael
Leamy, Edmund
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mooney, John J.
Murphy, J.
Nannetti. Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth. South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, J. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, J. E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Sullivan, Donal
Thompson, E. C. (Monaghan, N.
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Thomas Esmonde and Captain Donelan.

Bill read a second time, and committed or to-morrow, at Twelve of the clock.

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.

Lords Message [1st March] relating to the appointment of a Joint Committee on the Widows and Orphans of Soldiers and Sailors considered.

Ordered, That a Select Committee of Five Members be appointed to join with a Committee to be appointed by the Lords to consider the various Charitable Agencies now in operation, and the funds available for relieving Widows and Orphans of Soldiers and Sailors, with a view to ensuring that the funds subscribed by local and private benevolence are applied to the best advantage in supplementing a scheme of Government pensions for Widows and Orphans of Soldiers and Sailors who have lost their lives in war.

Ordered, That Two Members be added to the Select Committee.

Message to the Lords to acquaint them therewith.

Ordered, That Mr. Bartley, Mr. Hozier, Mr. Hayes Fisher, Mr. Kearley, and Mr. Lambert be nominated Members of the Committee.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, That Three be the quorum.—(*Sir William Walrond.*)

PRESENCE OF THE SOVEREIGN IN PARLIAMENT.

Lords Message [19th March] considered :—

Ordered, That a Select Committee of Five Members be appointed to join with a Committee to be appointed by the Lords to consider the accommodation available in the House of Lords when the Sovereign is personally present in Parliament, and the advisability of substituting Westminster Hall on such an occasion for the House of Lords (King's Consent signified).

Message to the Lords to acquaint them therewith.

Ordered, That Mr. Akers Douglas, Sir William Hart Dyke, Mr. Herbert Gladstone, Mr. Holland, and Mr. James William Lowther be Members of the said Committee.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, That Three be the quorum.—(*Sir William Walrond.*)

HOUSE OF COMMONS ACCOMMODATION COMMITTEE.

The Select Committee on House of Commons Accommodation was nominated of—Sir John Aird, Mr. Akers Douglas, Sir Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett, Mr. Cochrane, Mr. Jacoby, Colonel Lockwood, Dr. MacDonnell, Mr. Malcolm, Mr. Arthur Morton, Mr. Edward Morton, Mr. Newdigate, Mr. William Redmond, Sir Barrington Simeon, Mr. Soames, and Mr. Frederick Wilson.—(*Sir William Walrond.*)

Adjourned at a quarter before One of the clock.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 27th March, 1901.

TOOK THE OATH.

One other Member took and subscribed the Oath.

PETITIONS.

BEER BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Wallingford; Saffron Walden; Farington; Bawdsey; Sutton; Hodnet; Great Wratting; Snaith; Leicester; Hampshire (two); Salisbury; Ross; Shifnal; Wilmington; Upton Bishop; Sleaford; Monmouthshire; Lincoln; Uppingham; Staffordshire; Thaxted; Exmouth; Cirencester; Loddon and Clavering; Rutland; Worcestershire; Market Harborough; and Manorbier; to lie upon the Table.

BERWICKSHIRE COUNTY TOWN BILL.

Petition from Greenlaw, against; to lie upon the Table.

COAL MINES (EMPLOYMENT) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Ireland Pit; West Kiveton; Norton Hill; Foxcote; Blackwell; Braysdown; Farrington; Camerton; Kilmersdon; Timsbury; Huish; Writhlington; Springfield; Bishop Sutton; and Old Mills; to lie upon the Table.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (HIGHER GRADE AND EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS).

Petition from Darwen for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

HOSPITALS (EXEMPTION FROM RATES) BILL.

Petition from Dundee, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Worcester; and St. Mellons; to lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Petition from Linlithgow, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from West Kiveton; Ireland Pit; Blackheath; Rowley Regis; Whiteheath; Springfield; Writhlington; Camerton; Timsbury; Blackwell; Foxcote; Kilmersdon; Huish; Norton Hill; Braysdowne; Old Mills; and Farrington; to lie upon the Table.

ROMAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN IRELAND.

Petitions against establishment, from Leven; and Coatbridge; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Kendal; Leeds (two); Henley-on-Thames (three); Wakefield; Browney; Putney; Darwen (two); Wiltshire; Queen's Park; Wigan; Stokenchurch; Ashford; Fleetwood (two); Bristol; Ramsbottom; Birdwaal; Willesden; Walsall; Bloxwich; Smethwick; Eastbourne; Whiteinch; Southampton; Longridge; Ashton-on-Ribble; Preston; Lytham; Radcliffe; Halifax; Rainhill; Wiston; and Nantwich; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Millport; Edzell; Partick; Edinburgh; Durness; Govan; and Dumfries; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LAND TRANSFER ACT, 1897.

Paper [presented 26th March]; to be printed. [No. 100.]

BRISTOL CORPORATION (DOCKS AND RAILWAYS, ETC.) BILL [Lords].

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 26th March; *Mr. Gerald Balfour*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 101.]

GLASGOW AND SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY BILL.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 26th March; *Mr. Gerald Balfour*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 102.]

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY BILL.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 26th March; *Mr. Gerald Balfour*; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 103.]

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 1) BILL.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 26th March; *Mr. Gerald Balfour*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 104.]

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS (MANUFACTURE OF EARTHENWARE AND CHINA).

Copy presented, of Amended Special Rules for the Manufacture of Earthenware and China [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (NAVY VOTES).

Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 22nd March 1901, authorising the temporary application of surpluses on certain Navy Votes for the year 1900–1901 to meet excesses on other Navy Votes for the same year [pursuant to Resolution of the House of 4th March 1879]; to lie upon the Table.

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.

Copy presented, of Amending General Order for the regulation of proceedings under and in pursuance of the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 105.]

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP A).

Mr. Hargreaves Brown reported from the Committee on Group A of Private Bills, that the parties opposing the Thames Piers and River Service Bill had stated that the evidence of Captain L. W. E. Bowen, Harbour Master, Temple Pier, was essential to their case; and it having been proved that his attendance could not be procured without the intervention of the House, he had been instructed to move that the said Captain L. W. E. Bowen do attend the said Committee to-morrow, at Twelve of the clock.

Ordered, That Captain L. W. E. Bowen do attend the Committee on Group A of Private Bills to-morrow, at Twelve of the clock.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP D).

Mr Schwann reported from the Committee on Group D of Private Bills, that the parties promoting the Wells Water Bill had stated that the evidence of Joseph Clapton Davis was essential to their case; and it having been proved that his attendance could not be procured without the intervention of the House, he had been instructed to move that the said Joseph Clapton Davis do attend the said Committee to-morrow, at Twelve of the clock.

Ordered, That Joseph Clapton Davis do attend the Committee on Group D of Private Bills to-morrow, at Twelve of the clock.

QUESTIONS.

There were eight questions on the Paper. The first addressed to the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, was, by request, postponed. The others were addressed to the Chief Secretary for Ireland and the Secretary of State for War, neither of whom was in his place.

MR. O'DOHERTY (Donegal, N.) put a question to the Secretary of State for War.

*MR. SPEAKER: There is no object in calling on the other questions, as the Ministers to whom they are addressed are not present.

MR. O'DOHERTY: The Minister to whom I put this question is in the precincts of the House.

*MR. SPEAKER: That may be so; but he is not here.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet): I think the Chief Secretary is about the House somewhere.

*MR. SPEAKER: I can take no notice of that; but I can call on the hon. Member to put the question if he wishes it.

MR. O'DOHERTY then put another question, but no reply was made. He complained of the absence of Ministers.

*MR. SPEAKER: The right hon. Gentleman is not here, and I cannot enter into a discussion as to why he is not here.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): My hon. and learned and gallant colleague the Member for East Clare is very anxious to have his question answered.

CONSOLIDATED FUND (No. 1) BILL.

Order for Committee read.

Clause 1:—

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) asked why the usual course had not been followed of specifying separately the particular year to which the sums voted were appropriated.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): This is a Consolidated Fund and not an Appropriation Bill. It is only on the Appropriation Bill at the end of the session that the sums are specifically ear-marked.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 2 and 3 agreed to.

Clause 4:—

MR. CALDWELL objected to the title. The Bill was really the first "Consolidated Fund Bill," and not the "Consolidated Fund First Bill."

[The hon. Member moved an Amendment to this effect, but it was negatived.]

Bill reported without Amendment; to be read a third time to-morrow.

BEER BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

*MR. PURVIS (Peterborough): I rise, Sir, to move the Second Reading of this Bill to amend the law relating to the manufacture and sale of beer. The imperfection of the existing law has lately been brought before the notice of everyone in so startling a manner by what has happened from drinking poisonous beer, and the remedy is so obvious, if I may say so, that notwithstanding the Amendment, I should have felt it unnecessary to do more than barely state the object of the Bill, did I not remember that two Bills with a similar object have already, within the past not very many years, been considered by this House, without the desired result; and that this though like is yet so unlike them that I must needs explain as briefly as I can the method of this Bill, whereby I trust that it will meet with better fortune than was ultimately theirs. The Bills of 1886 and 1896 were introduced by the hon. Baronet the Member for Sudbury, whose devotion and public spirit have inseparably associated his name with this question, and his unflagging attention, and that of many others bestowed on the present measure will now, I trust, be suitably rewarded by the realisation of their patriotic desire that everyone throughout the United Kingdom shall have a glass of pure beer when he asks for it.

I will give just so much of the history of this matter as is necessary to explain the immediate business in hand. For generations down to the latter part of the 18th century, beer had been a liquor, old, mature, and mellow, brewed after the barley harvest, from malt and hops, in the mild autumnal weather of October. But the 19th century arrived with all its cheap methods, some good, some bad, and Parliament had to interfere. So from 1802 till 1847 only barley malt, hops, and yeast were allowed in the brewing of beer, save for one slight exception, hardly indeed a real exception, that brown sugar for colouring was allowed from 1811 to 1817. But in 1847, after forty-five years of security, was sown the seed of all our woes in this respect; for in that year a concession was made to the woeful importunity of our old friend the West Indian planter, and sugar was then first allowed to have a real component share in the brewing of beer. But sugar was the signal for an invasion of imitations. Sugar can be made from other things besides the West Indian cane. It is only a matter of starch. Dapper chemists with their glucose were followed jauntily by *pseudo*-scientists with countless substitutes, rejoicing in such a list of fearsome names as would have made Quintilian stare and gasp. When the burden of all this began to grow too grievous to be borne, there arose a doughty champion of reform, the hon. Baronet, who took the field in that behalf and brought in his Bills of 1886 and 1896. He proposed to turn back, make the law as it was before 1847, and suffer no drink to bear the name of "beer" save only what was brewed from malt and hops.

And herein lies the cardinal difference between those Bills and this—for here I leave history and betake myself to the present Bill. Its main object is to secure to the buyer a glass of beer brewed from malt, hops and yeast if he asks for it. But to enable him to do so we had to give it a name. Well, as the House is aware, outside the walls of Parliament, from all sorts and conditions of men, county councils, municipal councils, boards of guardians, trade and labour leagues—has arisen a cry for pure beer, and we who had to frame the Bill were much exercised in our minds whether we should not take that name for what we call in our Bill by the modest name of "Malt Beer." But a sense—perhaps too strict—of justice restrained us. The name "beer" has now for over fifty years been shared in common by malt beer and that brewed with substitutes for malt and we felt that the name "Pure Beer," while it would truly denote our beer would yet connote offensively that all others were impure, whereas we do not seek to claim any monopoly, express or implied, of the name beer. This meets more than one objection to the Bill of 1896. It was then argued by our opponents that several industries engaged in making legitimate substitutes would be ruined if the Bill passed into law, and the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer declared that the revenue would suffer if he could not tax as beer any but malt beer. Well, we have changed all that by Clause 1. We advocates of barley malt are still the same but not the same. Sir John Cutler had a pair of black worsted stockings which his maid darned so often with silk that they became a pair of silk stockings. It is no longer monopoly that we seek, it is Free Trade for all. The enterprising makers of substitutes may go merrily on save in so far as malt beer shall openly compete with them, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer and his revenue shall not be interfered with.

Clause 2, prohibiting the use of hop substitutes, is for the safety of the consumer of beer, and is necessary from the great danger of their use, and the extreme difficulty of detection. Hop substitutes cannot plead in their defence the use and wont of fifty years ago like malt substitutes. On one occasion—twenty years ago—in a time of acute hop famine, they attempted and failed to take a permanent place among the constituents of the mash tun, and it is admitted on all hands that to allow them would be most hurtful to the public, but that their prohibition will hurt nobody, because hops virtually hold the field against all substitutes.

Coming now to Clauses 3 and 4, as to marking and labelling of cask and bottle and tap, and putting up notice in the bar room, it is an undisputed function of Government to take precautions against deception, which a buyer cannot take for himself. The evidence against this marking and labelling given to the Beer Committee was all on the assumption that there might have to be ten or more different labels required, and so chaos and confusion would reign supreme at the public-house bar, but this Bill proposes only two labels corresponding with the two names in Clause 1, a simple division by which there is no beer which does not fall under one or other alternative. Thus the spectre of chaos and confusion is effectively laid, and as to any slur or stigma on part-malt beer, if as some maintain it is as good as malt beer, why should the label be deemed any disadvantage? If it is better or more to the public taste the label will be a distinct advantage. A lady had given to her a barrel of small beer, and she asked the butler how it were best to keep it. "Well, ma'am," was his reply, "the best way to keep a barrel of small beer is to place a barrel of strong beer alongside of it." All we ask is to give the buyer a chance to judge for himself, and then to leave him to do as he likes. And this I may at once say is also our reason for the eighth clause of the

Bill. That clause aims at giving a man this same chance of getting a glass of malt beer even where the tied house system prevails, where at present he is fain to take what is offered him or go, may be a day's journey, to a less tied house locality. My hon. friend the Member for West Nottingham has an Amendment on the Paper as to tied houses. Of course, he knows best what he is about, but I hope he will forgive me for saying it seems somewhat wide of the mark as raising an academic discussion, on a most important question I allow, but more suited in its form for Tuesday afternoons than for the Second Reading of such a Bill as this with an immediate object in view. So then coming back to Clause 5, requiring registers to be kept by brewer and dealer of beer sent out and received, it sets up what is called in the apt language of Bentham, pre-appointed evidence based on the right inherent in Society to ward off wilful or accidental injury to itself by antecedent precautions, and this clause while no impediment to getting the article required will be a very considerable hindrance to improper sales of what is but a disguised imitation of the article required.

Such are the main features of this Bill. It is not protection, but is plainly in the interests of the consumer which is the main doctrine of Free Trade. It gives warning to the buyer, and then leaves him to do as he pleases. Except the notice in Clause 4, sub-section 2 to be posted up at the bar of the seller of part-malt beer, it imposes no obligation on the brewer or seller of part-malt beer which it does not impose on the brewer or seller of malt beer. It has been said why not leave the whole matter to the Food and Drug Acts which already make it punishable to sell to the prejudice of the purchaser "any article of food which is not of the nature, substance, and quality demanded by the purchaser." But in the case of beer, this would mean an expensive, elaborate, and even questionable chemical analysis, whereas this Bill chiefly works by what may be termed mechanical plain ready means of prevention and detection; and to leave things as they are because of the liability to punishment under the Food and Drug Acts, is not more reasonable than to sleep with the front door unbolted because a burglar can be punished under the common law when he happens to be caught. Then again it may be argued that nothing should be done until the Royal Commission has made its Report on the subject of arsenic in beer and other articles of food and drink. But for our purpose the reference to the Commission is at once too wide in its scope and too narrow in its object. It may, for ought I know, be very useful for a Royal Commission to go roving at large over the whole field of a reference *De omnibus rebus et quibusdam aliis*; but it will settle nothing and discover nothing of actual preventive value as regards beer now that universal attention has been rivetted in so tragic a fashion on the special form of danger from which the public has suffered. I imagine that the coroner's inquests have rid us for some time to come of arsenic from pyrites; but when Hercules cut off the Hydra's head, two new ones grew up in its place. There are other baneful things besides arsenic, and our last state may be worse than the first, be the Report of the Commission what it will as to arsenic, if this Bill do not pass.

Sir, I am already too much indebted to the patience of the House, or I might have shown that this is a temperance Bill, for temperance prevails in the countries where only malt beer is drunk. I might have shown that this is a brewers' Bill, for if confidence in British beer be not restored Bavarian beer will take its place. I might have shown that this is an agriculturist Bill as increasing the demand for barley; but it is time to furl my sail and make an end. Now that we are brought face to face with the stern facts—after the deaths which have occurred from poisoned beer—after the widespread sickness and suffering from poisoned beer, after the public has appealed to us in daily petitions to this House for protection from this pestilence that walketh in darkness, I maintain that the present state of things ought not to be suffered to continue for an hour. And so my task is done. If I have in anywise shown this Bill to be worthy of support, I have done as I desired. If, as doubtless is the fact, I have in many ways come short of what is due to the House and the subject, I trust it will be considered the fault of the advocate and not imputed to the cause which he has advocated. I beg to move.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."—(*Mr. Purvis*).

*COLONEL MILWARD (Warwickshire, Stratford-upon-Avon): In rising to move the rejection of this Bill I desire first to say one or two words upon a personal matter. I wish to explain that I am in no way interested in brewing, neither have I any commercial interest in the sugar industry. I have never been the holder of any brewery shares, and I have never been a guest at a licensed victuallers' dinner. I can, therefore, claim to approach this subject from an entirely independent point of view.

I oppose this Bill for four reasons. First, because it is not a Bill to prevent arsenical poisoning in beer; secondly, it is contrary to the interests of British agriculturists; thirdly, it creates a law which the executive cannot administer; and, fourthly, it favours the foreign as against the British producer. With regard to arsenical poisoning, I did hope that this Bill would have given a strong lead to the House. Undoubtedly the great trouble which has arisen recently in the North has been due to the sugar which found its way into the beer. But, as a matter of fact, sugar adulteration has nothing whatever to do with this Bill. We use sugar in almost everything we eat and drink. We have it in our tea and our coffee, and even hams are cured with it, and therefore it is impossible to say that sugar is not a proper constituent of ordinary food. But the question is, have we a right to know what it is we are eating and drinking? As a matter of fact, we eat and drink a good many things of the constituents of which we know nothing. We drink, for instance, aerated waters, soda, lithia, and seltzer, and I do not suppose that many Members of this House can tell us the constituents of these waters. I do not see, indeed, what particular object there is in making known the exact constituents of beer, except it be to restore public confidence. We know that the poisoning in the North arose from sugar supplied by a particular firm, and was due to the sulphuric acid with which that sugar was treated. The hon. Gentleman who moved the Second Reading of this Bill said that for the last fifty years sugar had been admitted to be a constituent of beer. Now it takes two forms. There is the invert sugar and the glucose sugar. The invert sugar is made from sugar cane treated with sulphuric acid; the glucose sugar is obtained from maize, sago, and tapioca, also treated with sulphuric acid, which, of course is afterwards got rid of. If there be arsenic in the sulphuric acid, it is possible that it passes into the invert or glucose sugar, and if impure sulphuric acid is used it is quite possible that the impurity passes into the sugar. I do not wish to go into the history of the firm implicated in this matter. I believe that Messrs. Bostock are now in liquidation. The business was originally founded by Mr. Bostock, and eventually became, under one of the most objectionable kinds of management—the kind so prevalent nowadays—a limited liability company, in which everything devolves upon the manager, whose duty it is to make the directors' fees, his own salary, and possibly a profit for the shareholders. If, as has been suggested, there was gross carelessness in the manufacture of the sugar, and if that gross carelessness resulted in widespread disease and death, I cannot understand why the criminal law was not put into operation. If gross carelessness led to many deaths surely it was a subject which ought to be touched by the criminal law, and I cannot understand the failure of the Government to take steps in the matter. This Bill, unfortunately, does not deal in any way with that question. If the public in our great towns look, as they are looking, for a pure beer Bill, a Bill which will secure that the beer supplied to them is free from arsenical poisoning, they will be disappointed with this measure, which does not in the slightest degree guarantee their safety. The same materials may still be used, call them by what name you like. There is to be the same invert sugar, which may be perfectly pure; there is to be the glucose, which ought to be pure; but there is not the slightest protection to the public in a single line of this Bill. I should like to read a few words which Dr. Reid, the sanitary officer for the county of Staffordshire, gave in his evidence before the Royal Commission now sitting. He said—

> "As preventive measures he would recommend (1) that no glucose or invert sugar should be made with sulphuric acid unless it was made from sulphur and not from pyrites, and that the brewers should have a guarantee to that effect; (2) that the Inland Revenue should instruct Excise Officers to see that such guarantees were given, and to collect samples of brewing materials for analysis; and (3) that additional powers for local authorities to seize contaminated beers should be given."

If the Bill had proceeded on these lines I could have understood it, but there is not a single word in it which would strengthen the hands of local authorities. We must look elsewhere for the motives of this Bill. I should like to say that there are only eight makers of brewing substitutes known, and surely the Inland Revenue, which controls so many breweries, could exercise equal control over these eight firms of substitute makers. There ought to be no danger to the public when there are only so few places to which the health officers or officers of Inland Revenue would have to go in order to seek for contaminated materials. It does not strike me that the Local Government Board, with its army of inspectors, would find this a very difficult duty to undertake.

But, as I have said, we must look elsewhere for the motive which inspires this Bill. I feel sure that one is to raise the price of British barley. Personally, as an agricultural Member, I should not object to that if I were convinced that that would be the case. But I hold strongly opposite views. I fear that the Bill will injure the agriculturist, and in this way. It may raise the price of the highest kinds of barley, but it will lower the price of the second and medium classes which are grown throughout the country. Why was sugar introduced into beer at all, unless it was to enable the brewer by using the second-class barleys in combination with it to produce a better, brighter, and lighter beer, which above all contained less alcohol? Sugar enables the brewer to use second class English barley, and thereby render it equal to first class English, Chilian, or Smyrna barley; and he must combine sugar with the second class English barley in order to produce a palatable beer. You may say that the English public might drink beer less sweet; but they have a right to say what they will drink, and as the public taste has been educated to drink the sweeter liquor brewers must, it they are to use second class English barley, combine sugar with it. This Bill casts a stigma or reflection on second-class beer. It creates a "malt beer" and a "part-malt beer," and the effect of passing it will be to reflect on the "part-malt beer." The effect of this undoubtedly will be that either the brewers will make more "all-malt" beer or continue to make beer according to their present methods. If they make all-malt beer, brewers will be driven to go abroad to buy first-class barley, because they cannot buy it in large quantities in England, and in that way they will depreciate the price of second-class barleys; for brewers of "part-malt beer" will have to keep down the prices, and will pay as low a price as possible for the barleys they use.

This is very important, and to show that this is no idle contention I am afraid I must read a few extracts. When the Bill of 1895 or 1896 was before the House there were two respected Members of this House —Mr. Money-Wigram and Mr. Usborne— who spoke with great weight upon it. Indeed, it was a speech of the former Gentleman to the Agricultural Committee upstairs which induced me to hold the views I do. I have not the advantage of being able to quote from that speech, but I have here the words of Mr. Usborne, delivered in this House on the 25th March, 1896, and I will ask the attention of hon. Members to them. Mr. Usborne said—

> "Their second object was to force the barley grown by their constituents into the brewer's mash tun. Would keeping sugar out of the tun force the barley into it? Most certainly not. It would force it out by forcing in far more foreign barley than the amount of sugar withdrawn. What was it that the operative brewer wanted in his tun, so as to get a sweet wort that would give him a healthy and complete fermentation? Why, the sun! The sun is the creator of all saccharine substances. He brewed himself, with slight variations for the time of year, as follows:—He used 80 per cent. of Essex barley, 10 per cent. of foreign (Smyrna), and 10 per cent of sugar. If this Bill became law he should certainly be forced, in order to get enough sun into the mash tun, to use 40 per cent. of foreign barley and 60 per cent of English."

There are a few more quotations with which I have to trouble the House, and they embody the views on the Bill of leading agriculturists, which were given expression to at the Central Chamber of Agriculture in February last—

> "Mr. Sutton Nelthorpe, of the Lincolnshire Chamber, said that although Lincolnshire was a county where a great deal of barley was grown, they felt it was a very debatable question whether the proposals would not injure the sale of second-class barley in Lincolnshire, and therefore do injury to the farmers. The Lancashire and Cheshire and the Hampshire (Mr. Jas. Stratton) representatives agreed.
>
> "Mr. Horne (Shropshire) said in his county sugar was necessary.
>
> "Mr. Wilson (Stockton-on-Tees) said in the north of England barley grown on certain lands would be put out of use if the use of sugar was abolished altogether."

In addition to these opinions I thought it well to arm myself with opinions of the brewers, and so I put to several of them this specific question: Whether more or less Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Staffordshire, and Shropshire barley would be used if this Bill were passed, and what would be the effect upon the price? Mr. Henry Mitchell, of Mitchells and Butters, Smethwick, near Birmingham, replied—

> "We can produce fine beers entirely from the barleys produced in the counties you mention, combined with 20 per cent. of finest invert sugar used in the brewing. For brewing entirely with malt we should have to select 70 per cent. of light, ripe foreign barley in combination with 30 per cent. of best eastern counties barley. The beers from this all-malt brewing would not equal in any respect the beers produced from the midland counties' barley, with the mixture of 20 per cent. of best invert sugar."

My next authority is a gentleman whose name is universally respected—I mean Sir John Holder, Bart., Chairman of Holders Brewery, Limited, Birmingham. He states—

> "I may say that if we had to brew an all-malt beer we should be compelled to use almost entirely malt made from foreign barley. I cannot help thinking that the price of English medium and lower grade barley would decline in value."

Mr. Morton Lucas, High Sheriff of Warwickshire, Chairman of Lucas and Co., Limited, Leamington, says—

> "Instead of buying practically all the barley we malt direct from the grower in Warickshire, we should only buy one-fifth of the quantity, the remaining four-fifths being absolutely useless unless supplemented by a certain percentage of adjuncts. Our price for this season's barley has ranged from 29s. to 35s. per quarter. For an all-malt beer everything below 32s. would be absolutely displaced by foreign barley. The fact that there would be no demand for the cheaper sorts of barley for brewing purposes could not do less than seriously depress the price of these qualities."

I think I need not trouble the House any further with these opinions. The brewers have hitherto been the friends of the farmers. I have brought forward the evidence of those who attended the Chamber of Agriculture, and also the evidence of those who buy the barley. It is for these reasons, and because I think we cannot afford to play with British agriculture in the hope of something good coming, that I am bound to say I cannot support the Bill. There are two more reasons which in my mind are absolutely fatal to the measure. The first is that no executive could administer the provisions of the Bill. I do not know whether hon. Members are aware of the fact that it is impossible to detect by analysis the difference between the beers. To brew beer you must have sugar. Whether you get the sugar from barley, or from cane sugar, or maize, or sago, it is sugar still, and the result is exactly the same. I think perhaps I ought to quote some authority in support of this. I will quote the Beer Materials Committee Report (page 7)—

> "We are satisfied that in the present state of scientific knowledge it is not possible to determine by chemical analysis with sufficient certainty to obtain a conviction whether malt adjuncts have or have not been used, except, perhaps, in cases where excessive proportions of such adjuncts have been employed."

If that be so, I should like to ask the House to consider how the executive is to deal with this matter. What is to prevent a brewer putting half-malt beer into all-malt beer, if he desires to do so? There is no analysis to detect it. What is to prevent a publican from keeping both kinds of beer, and syphoning from one barrel into the other? I cannot believe for one moment that this House will pass a law which the executive is unable to put into operation. It would become a dead letter, and we should be stultified, and render ourselves foolish in the eyes of the country. Directly it is known outside that there is no possibility of detecting by analysis the difference between the beers—that neither by sight, colour, taste, nor chemical analysis can we find out which beer it is—is it not perfectly certain that there will be continual and gross fraud in connection with the mixing of the two beers ? The measure will be grossly unfair to the British producer as against the foreign producer. It is proposed that the House should put British producers under certain restrictions in regard to the beer they brew. We are to say that this beer should be labelled superior, and that beer inferior, that this should be labelled malt beer, and the other part-malt beer, by which, of course, it is intended to throw a reflection on the part-malt beer. You would allow the foreign producers, the brewers of Pilsener, Munich, and other beers to come in without any restrictions at all. There is no such dislike for foreign articles in this country that consumers would prefer home-manufactured beer. On the contrary, many people know that the foreign article is perfectly good and wholesome, and I am astonished when the foreign products are admitted without any restriction that you are going to restrict in every possible way British brewers. I should have thought that we had enough foreign competition in this country already. When I see great markets like those of Germany and Austria shut to us by hostile tariffs, and when I see articles manufactured there flooding our country year by year, I think that we have quite enough of foreign competition already. My right hon. friend the Member for Sleaford has been constantly seeking to protect British agriculture. I am beginning to think that the old free trade doctrines are a little worn out. That we should in broad daylight, at the beginning of the twentieth century, pass another enactment which is to free foreigners from restrictions we put on our own producers, seems to me an extraordinary thing. If you cannot detect the ingredients of foreign beer, and if you cannot go into the brewer's place and see what he is making the beer from, the Act is grossly unfair to the British brewer. You do not know what the foreign beer which comes into this country is made from, and you cannot restrict the foreigner.

I do not think that I should sit down without, at all events, suggesting some alternative policy. Having regard to the feeling of the public at the present moment I would suggest that the Government should take a firm stand, and see that the ingredients used in making beer are of a quality to prevent such a terrible calamity as occurred in the north of England ever taking place in this country again. I would also suggest another practical remedy. I would suggest that the price of sugar should be its natural price, and not its bounty-fed price. The question is really one between the price of barley and the price of sugar, and sugar at its present price must win. Sugar is unnaturally cheap in this country. It is far below its natural price. Let the Government take their courage in their hands and let them agree with other nations to place sugar at its natural price, and I venture to say that the quantity of first-class and second-class barley used in brewing will increase in that way. The brewer would then no longer have the incentive he now has to use sugar. He would have every encouragement to use a larger proportion of British barley in the manufacture of beer.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Colonel Milward.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

MR. HEYWOOD JOHNSTONE (Sussex, Horsham) said he felt in a position of somewhat unusual difficulty and embarrassment, because he was unable to find out the object of the promoters of the Bill, and those doubts had not been removed by the speeches of the mover and seconder of the Bill. The Bill, so far as he could make out, did not differ in the smallest degree from that which had previously been before the House. There were on the back of the Bill a number of names that must carry weight in the House, but he was bound to ask himself what was the object of the Bill and of its promoters. He thought at first, when he heard notice being given of a Bill of this character, that it was possibly for the promotion of what was known as pure beer, because he remembered there was not very long ago a movement in favour of pure beer. Pure beer was, no doubt, a very excellent beverage, and appealed very strongly to those who consumed it. No doubt pure beer was an excellent thing to cry when they went down to the country. While the pure beer movement was going on there seemed to be dawning in England a kind of earthly paradise, having a pure and wholesome liquid which the wearied labourer might drink to his fill without fear either of the doctor or the policeman. But when they came to look at the Bill they found nothing about pure beer in it. They saw nothing to compel or encourage the manufacture of pure beer. One of the numerous arguments in favour of pure beer was that it was going to promote temperance largely, but there was not a single provision in the Bill which would secure the purity of beer, and as far as he could understand it, the Bill would have the effect of harassing the brewers and the retailers of beer by practically compelling them to manufacture or retail two articles, and it would enrich those who had to make labels, the designers of stamps, and the printers of letters one and a quarter inches square, which would have to be used in every room throughout the United Kingdom in which beer was served. It would in some degree penalise the use, so far as possible, of beer not brewed from barley malt. Perhaps that was the explanation of it all. Perhaps in some nebulous way the aim of the Bill was indirectly to raise the price of barley. Last year he attended a farmers' dinner, and the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Sleaford, who was present, delivered a speech, in which he told the farmers that ruin was staring them in the face, and that they would very shortly be in the workhouse. He subsequently soothed their feelings and comforted them with the statement that there was still a bit of blue in the sky. It almost seemed to him that the right hon. Gentleman saw in the lamentable occurrence in the north of England what he regarded as something like the interposition of Providence to raise the price of barley and bring hope to the minds of the British barley grower.

But this Bill would do nothing to raise the price of barley in this country, because it did not prohibit the use of foreign barley or compel the use of British barley, and the brewer, like all other human beings, would get what suited him best. Mr. Thomas Usborne, speaking in the House on a similar Bill some years ago, said that he used in brewing his beer 80 per cent. of Essex barley, 10 per cent. of foreign barley, and 10 per cent. of sugar, and he observed that if the Bill then under consideration had been passed he would have been compelled to use 40 per cent. of foreign barley and 60 per cent. of English barley. That statement from a practical brewer, who understood and appreciated the subject of which he was talking, showed that this measure would not benefit the British agriculturist or send up the price of barley grown in Great Britain. After all, the value of barley was a matter of climate and a matter of sunshine. If this Bill could compel the sun to shine at the right time on the British Empire it would do a great deal more for agriculture than the provisions it contained as to the brewing of beer. In order to benefit the farmers of East Anglia they must either prohibit the use of foreign barley altogether or put so strong a duty on foreign barley as to compel the brewer to use home-grown barley. The only effect of the Bill would be to compel the manufacturer to brew both malt and half-malt beer, and the natural result would be that care would be taken to make the half-malt beer the more palatable of the two. The brewer would take great care that it was the sort of article which would be most in demand at the places where it was sold. If it was the cheaper form to manufacture they might depend upon it that he would take care to sell the largest amount of the part-malt kind. What a fatuous kind of legislation was that to compel two articles to be put in constant comparison and competition day by day, while there was nothing to ensure that what they held to be the least valuable was not the better of the two! He thought that point was important.

The real fact was, and he took it that the promoters of the Bill knew it pretty well, that there was practically no inquiry and no demand for so-called pure beer. The Report of the Departmental Committee on Beer Materials contained the following—

> "It may be pointed out that under the present law, if there was a large and genuine demand for all-malt beer, it would probably seldom be difficult for consumers to obtain it under guarantee."

Was it conceivable, if it was to the advantage of a brewer to advertise, and hold himself out as a producer of all-malt beer and nothing else, that he would not rush in and occupy the field, having before him such a large prospect of advantage and gain? That was worthy of consideration. If there was a real and growing demand on the part of the outside public for all-malt beer, why did not some brewer come into the market and fill up that demand at once? The extraordinary departure which this Bill took, was that it did not matter whether they produced the required article or not, but they must own that they had used certain materials. The fact was that no analogy could be drawn between malt beer and half-malt beer, in the same way as between butter and margarine. Butter and margarine were two different products. Malt beer was admittedly the same product as half-malt beer, only they were made from different materials. When the same result might be reached by two different ways, and when they limited the choice of the producer to particular kinds of materials, he thought they were going a long way in the direction of legislation which interfered with the manufacturing habits and customs of the community, and in a direction which, to his mind, was both dangerous and unnecessary.

He had alluded to the pure beer cry. That cry had absolutely died out until it was revived by the lamentable occurrences which took place in Manchester and the North of England last year. He did not in the least minimise the seriousness or the gravity of that attack, but he wanted to point out to the House in the first place, that the whole of that illness was traced to its source, namely, the sugar supplied by a particular firm. Dr. Buchanan in his report regarding the epidemic referred to the information obtained as to the use of brewing sugar in these words—

> "This information, wherever obtained, was invariably to the effect that brewing sugar had, at all events up to the end of November, been used at the brewery. In all but two cases the whole or part of the sugar used was said to have been obtained from Messrs. Bostock and Co. In two instances (the brewery in Stone, and another brewery in Preston) it had been obtained from a sugar dealer who, I have been informed, was supplied by Messrs. Bostock and Co., as well as by other brewing sugar manufacturers."

If hon. Members wished to challenge that statement, they would have an opportunity of tracing the epidemic to another source. The epidemic had been traced to that particular source, and he went further and said that the liability of those who supplied that sulphuric acid in the first instance was undoubted, unquestioned, and unquestionable. There was no doubt in his mind but that in addition to a civil liability there was a liability to which the criminal law could be applied in respect of carelessness and want of due precautions on the part of those who supplied an article which they knew was going to be used in the manufacture of beer. There had been one or two prosecutions already in respect of that very beer, under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1875. The law as it stood at present was quite sufficient to deal with an occurrence of the lamentable character which had taken place in Manchester and its neighbourhood. It could be dealt with by means of a civil liability, or a criminal liability, or a prosecution under the Food and Drugs Act. There was another point—such a thing had never happened before. Although sugar had been in considerable use since 1878, and had been used more or less since 1847 in the manufacture of beer, during twenty-two years there had been no fatal result following its use. The result of the poisoning at Manchester was that a wave of analyses had swept over the whole country. The Local Government Board very properly sent out a circular, calling the attention of the county councils to their responsibilities under the Act. In his own county out of forty-four samples that were taken, forty-two were quite clear from arsenic, and the other two contained it in only an infinitesimal quantity. The London County Council had taken 168 samples and not a trace of arsenic had been found in any of them. The reports of analysts had on more than one occasion shown that arsenical poisoning could exist in beer brewed from malt and hops only, although the danger of contamination might be a very faint one. A great authority had said that if the materials were pure, the product would be pure—no matter what the materials might be.

There was only one other argument he should like to mention—the argument that the consumer did not get what he asked for, and that he was entitled to get what he asked for. On that point, the Report of the Beer Materials Committee put the case of this Bill utterly and entirely out of court. The Report said—

> "If the liquor produced from malt only were clearly distinguishable from, and definitely superior to, the liquor brewed with a moderate proportion of malt adjuncts, it would be within the competence of Parliament, and might be in the public interest to assign separate distinctive names to these liquors. But, in our opinion, this is not at present the case."

What the customer asked for was beer, and he got beer. To sum up what he had said on these points, the hon. Member remarked that in the first instance the demand for legislation was founded upon a single instance, the Manchester scare, which was due to human fallibility and carelessness which no legislation could prevent, and for which the existing law was sufficient to provide a remedy. Its object was to create an increased demand for British barley, and to raise its price. It was more than problematical whether the present Bill would have that effect. The effect would be absolutely nil, because no analyst could tell the ingredients used if the product was satisfactory. For these reasons he could only regard the measure as the outcome of that muddled benevolence which often attended the gathering together of a new Parliament. His interest as a manufacturer was of the very smallest character, and its capital value was less than £500, but his interest as a large and thankful consumer of beer was much greater. He asked that it should be a wholesome, sound, and good article, because he drank a good deal of it, and because he did not think the Bill would do anything to improve his drink he seconded the motion for its rejection.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY (Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey): I entirely associate myself with the objection taken to this measure by the hon. and gallant Member, and I shall support him if he goes to a division, though I am afraid the arguments I shall endeavour to place before the House will hardly be arguments to which he will give agreement and assent. In the first instance, it seems to be almost sacrilege to break into what is or has the appearance of a little rift or family jar in the ranks of our opponents. The two constituent factors of the Government party—landlords and brewers—are at issue on this point. In my humble judgment the Bill goes too far. I have read many Bills introduced into the House, but I do not think I have ever read one in which the phraseology and the terminology were so unfortunate as in this Bill. I believe the effect of that mistake will be that the framers and promoters of the Bill will find in the division lobby that they have over-reached themselves, and that they have alienated a good deal of support which they would otherwise have enjoyed. The only justification for a measure of this character is the declaration that the law should be so altered as to make it certain that any purchaser desiring to buy what is called pure beer, or what I prefer to call malt and hops beer, should be able to do so without any chance of any other manufactured article being palmed off upon him. I believe that is a reasonable object. I believe the purchaser has the fullest right to be safeguarded, and if he wants malt and hops beer he should be able to buy it, even though a better beer were to be offered him than the one he desired to purchase. If the Bill had been so framed, and the character of this measure had been such as I have described, I myself would gladly have supported it. In other words, if instead of the words "malt beer" had been substituted the word "beer," and if the words "part-malt beer" had been deleted and the word "ale" put in their place I should have voted for it. I hope my argument will not be taken as offensive by any hon. Member, but I venture to suggest that a great many of the arguments brought forward by supporters of this measure are in every respect undiluted humbug and nonsense.

Some of the hon. Members whose names are on the back of the Bill should imitate the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Sleaford, and be a little more frank and candid and straightforward in avowing the object they have in view in the introduction of this measure. Nobody, whether in this House or elsewhere, is deceived. This measure is not introduced on behalf of the consumer or the purchaser. It is an agricultural and landlords' Bill in every respect. Does anybody imagine for one moment with regard to the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Sleaford that his bowels of compassion yearn for the unfortunate purchaser of beer, or that his withers are wrung on behalf of the man who wants pure malt beer and gets something with another compound in it? The frank letter which the right hon. Gentleman wrote some time ago would be quite sufficient to dissipate that idea. His object, as he informed the public, is to speed the plough, and this speeding of the plough is to take the form of an increased demand by legislation for English barley, and this Bill is nothing short of an attempt on the part of many Members to increase the value, price, and consumption of barley. The measure is hung upon this one slender fact, that a single firm, once in the lifetime of any hon. Member of this House, has produced glucose manufactured from sulphuric acid that was culpably or criminally defective—an incident that we may confidently predict will never occur again in our lifetime. Glucose and manufactured sugars are used not only in the manufacture of beer, but also very largely in the making of confectionery. Is the House going to enact that no child should buy anything but barley sugar?

My objection to the Bill is that it creates a standard. Even the wording and phraseology is puerile and juvenile in the extreme. It might be borrowed from the football field. "Malt beer" and "part-malt beer" suggest a "full back" and a "three-quarter back" arrangement. The Bill divides beer into two classes, and measures one by the other. It casts a reflection upon one kind of beer, and suggests that the particular quality of beer brewed from materials in the production of which hon. Members opposite have great interest has a purer character and is a more wholesome article of drink and food than all the others put together. I was for some years connected with a brewery, and I can honestly say that I have never seen glucose or maize sugar or any other of these malt substitutes used in my life. But beer brewed from a certain admixture of sugar is a very much better liquor, more potable and palatable in every respect than one brewed from malt and hops alone. Even the arguments of the hon. Member who last addressed the House seem to me to prove that, because brewers are not altogether fools, if they found that there was a demand for malt liquor, and they were able to make a profit upon it, they would undoubtedly manufacture it. Pure beer under this Bill is nothing more nor less than poor beer. Take the beer consumed in the North of England. They drink pure beer there. It is what they describe as mild ale, and that cannot be satisfactorily manufactured without an admixture of sugar. You could not get the ordinary working man in the North of England to drink malt beer without this sugar; it would not be to his taste or palate. This Bill is so worded as to stimulate the consumption of one class of beer and to handicap another. This is, in a measure, protection. I venture to make the following propositions:—That all beers are brewed from sugar solutions; that those sugar solutions can be obtained either from the sugar of barley or malt, or from the starch of rice or maize in the ordinary process of fermentation; that rice and maize are equally as good articles of food as barley or malt (as hundreds of millions of our fellow-creatures exist upon rice, and we are all aware that the maize crop in America is perhaps the most valuable that America produces); that all beers are chemically pure whatever they may be produced from in these different classes; that they are equally good articles of food; and that, as has been argued already, it is absolutely impossible to tell by analysis what their composition is so long as they are chemically pure. To talk of beer that is brewed from the starch of rice or maize as impure is an entire misuse of the word.

I was a member of the Committee that sat for several years to deal with the question of the adulteration of food products. We had before that Committee the chief Analyst of Somerset House, and he informed us that there had been 17,604 analyses of beer during ten years, that 3,720 of those had been found to be adulterated, almost in every case in public-houses, and that in every case the adulterant was either water or sugar or water and sugar mixed. He was asked this question—

> "You did not find as a rule any other noxious compounds?"

His answer was—

> "We did not find any noxious compounds in one of the samples."

That is to say, that for ten years the analyst of Somerset House had been dealing by analyses with beers, that between 17,000 and 18,000 samples had been examined, but not one single sample of beer had been found which could be described as adulterated by any noxious compound. That gentleman appeared before the Committee again two years later, when this evidence was given—

> "Q. Is any analysis made of beer? A. Very frequently. Q. For what cause? A. We have not had, as I gave in my evidence before, any experience of any deleterious ingredients being found in beer for many years."

I think that dissipates the contention that beer is, or has ever been adulterated. In the Report of that Committee these words may be found—

> "According to the Return afforded to the Local Government Board, excess of sulphur appears to be the only form in which beer is adulterated."

Therefore, I do not think that even the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Sleaford or the hon. Baronet the Member for Sudbury will endeavour to go beyond the chief authority upon this subject. Brewers say, and I think with some ground of justification, that as long as they produce an article that is chemically pure, that is wholesome as an article of food, they ought not to be tied down in any way as to what they produce.

I want to make a suggestion to the supporters of this Bill. We are living in days of statutory restrictions, statutory legislation, statutory parliaments, and other matters. For the first time we are asked to create a statutory liquor. I want the supporters of this new statutory liquor to endeavour ~~to~~ be original, to strain their powers of invention a little further in order to discover some description that may be applicable to this liquor alone. Words are coined for telegraphic purposes, often by a process of condensation, thus: "Grand Hotel" becomes "Granotel." In order to name this new statutory liquor, why not drop the "h" in malt and hops and call it "maltops"? Or why not immortalise the name of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Sleaford or that of the hon. Baronet the Member for Sudbury by calling it either "Quilter" or "Chaplin"? We might then look forward to people calling across the counter for "a pint of Quilter drawn mild," or "a quart of Chaplin with a good head on it."

I believe that this Bill would have passed through the House with much less friction if hon. Members who had a hand in its drafting had been more careful in their phraseology, and had adopted words similar to "beer" and "ale," neither of which would cast any reflection upon the other. For myself, as I do not think it is a Bill conceived in the interests of the consumer and the purchaser, I shall vote against it.

*SIR CUTHBERT QUILTER (Suffolk, Sudbury): In rising to support this Bill I cannot forget the many occasions upon which the kindness and forbearance of the House have been extended to me during the last fourteen or fifteen years when this matter has been before us. I also desire on behalf of myself and other friends of pure beer, to thank the hon. Member for Peterborough for having afforded us this opportunity of a full and free discussion of our measure, and for the careful and interesting manner in which he introduced the Bill to the House. I naturally should have liked to reply to the two or three able speeches to which we have listened in opposition to the Bill, but I will only say that except on one or two minor points of detail the criticism seems to have been directed against some other Bill or a measure it was expected we should bring in, or that somebody was supposed to have brought in. The Bill before us, if it is carefully looked into, will be seen to aim at hardly any of the objects which have been imputed to it. It is a simple Bill; it is open, I believe, to the charge of being a mild Bill; but when you think of the magnitude of the interests involved, and the responsibilities of the Government in regard to recent occurrences, I think it will be seen that this is a Bill brought forward in the interests of the consumer, and in furtherance of that policy of ear-marking national articles of food which has already received the sanction of this House, and which, I believe, will this afternoon be further affirmed.

Although the Bill is not my Bill, I have been intimately associated with the hon. Member for Peterborough in its preparation, and it is one that I entirely support, for I believe it is calculated to go a very long way towards achieving the objects for which I and others have laboured for so many years. On previous occasions I have ventured to give reasons why some legislation of this kind was required, and I think I may claim, with all deference and modesty, that whilst every ground I have advanced in the past holds good to-day, the need of some additional protection to the consumer of beer has been emphasised in such a tragic manner as to place the necessity almost outside the limits of argument. But there is one statement with which I think I am bound to deal. It has been urged in the public press, as well as in this House, that the advocates of pure beer have sought to make capital out of this unfortunate epidemic. I contend that previous to the arsenic scare the claim for a statutory definition of beer had ample merits, but no one can contend that recent events have not afforded additional grounds for intervention.

Under other circumstances I should like to have referred to the ancient history of beer, but to-day I refrain from entering at length upon that interesting subject. I will merely go back to the time of the Egyptians, and mention that they brewed a beverage from barley, called zythus, which, according to Herodotus, was not much inferior to wine. I might also trace the history of ale and beer in our own country from the fifth century, when it is recorded that an Irish king was always to have a brave army and an inebriating ale-house, and that the Irish chief was always to have two casks in his house, one of ale and another of milk. I was going to refer to the state of the West Indian planters, but that has been well dealt with by the proposer of the measure. I should, however, like to point out once more the extraordinary increase of the use of sugar in proportion to malt that has taken place since 1880. In 1870 the quantity of sugar used in brewing was 295,000 cwts.; in 1899 the quantity had increased to 2,943,752 cwts., or ten times the amount. To illustrate what the free mash tun has led to, I hold in my hand a Patent, No. 12241, which was taken out in 1899, for an improved process of converting wood, wood shavings, wood fibre and sawdust, as well as other materials, into glucose and alcohol. I think, Sir, you will agree with me that if we are to consume glucose at all we should certainly prefer it to be derived from some other source than sawdust. I am assured that this process has been employed in Germany for the past ten years — for export only, I imagine. Whether the patent rights have been exercised in this country I am unable to say, but, at any rate, I think it shows conclusively the necessity for enabling the public to obtain beer which they know has not been derived from any such source.

Referring to the legislation of 1880, I must confess that the more I study the circumstances connected with it the less I like it. It seems to me that the interests of the masses of our people—the beer drinkers—were sacrificed to the brewers and the revenue. The brewers were to be given perfect freedom and receive no "harsh treatment." The adulteration of the national beverage was alluded to as "an extension of the liberty of trade," the breaking of fetters which ought never to have been imposed. The restraint on the revenue officials who had hitherto been the guardians of the health of the people was to be relaxed, and the free mash tun was to become, if the brewers chose to make it so, a "free poison tun." I need not go on with that, because we all know what it led to. It has been stated over and over again that the taxation to be levied upon the brewing interest would be met by a corresponding deterioration in the materials used in brewing, but who is responsible for the protection of the consumer? Private Members are not responsible. I have every reason to believe that His Majesty's Government, when the present Commission have reported, will take such steps, as they are advised, for the protection of the health of the people, and for stimulating the activity of the Inland Revenue, which seems to have slumbered for so many years. But that is not our business, nor is it the object of this Bill. In December last the Secretary to the Treasury said that although the power to prevent the use of anything noxious or detrimental was conferred upon the Treasury, yet the duty of providing better securities for the wholesomeness of beer was placed by law on the local authorities, subject, if necessary, to the Local Government Board or the Board of Agriculture. Therefore, as I have before asked, where, between all these various authorities, does the responsibility really rest ? Had this responsibility been more clearly defined I venture to say that the conclusion of the Minority Report of the Beer Materials Committee would not have been ignored as they were. In the course of that inquiry strong evidence was forthcoming as to the dangers which the present system involved.

The question of protection against fraud is a very important matter, and we have endeavoured to deal with it. The Bill now before the House does not even go so far as to prevent the use of anything except hop substitutes, although it will enable the purchaser to distinguish between the two classes of beer ; that is, between that which contains substitutes for barley malt and that which does not. Apart from any considerations of public health, it seems to me that the Bill is only a logical sequence of all the recent legislation which has had for its object the protection of the public from what may be called "civil fraud." Barley malt is the essential characteristic of true beer, and in proportion as barley malt is displaced by inferior materials the purchaser is prejudiced. Surely when a man asks for beer he does not expect to receive a beverage which may be composed partly of alcohol derived from sawdust and arsenical glucose. We are constantly told that in order to brew a beer to suit the public taste resort must be had to sugar and other substitutes. We are prepared to let the public choose for themselves. The two classes of liquor which are defined in the Bill will stand on their own merits and fight their own battles for popular favour. We are told that people for the most part prefer beer made from chemicals, bright and sparkling. If that is so, they should welcome this Bill, because when they are thirsting for a glass of that chemical beer, which is so much the fashion, there will be no chance of their swallowing any of that thick heavy muddy stuff called "malt beer," which but for this Bill might be thrust upon them. *De gustibus non est disputandum.* But each person ought to be able to get what kind he likes, whether chemical or otherwise. I have found it very difficult to reconcile the zeal with which advocates of glucose and substitutes defend their concoctions as superior to old-fashioned malt and hops with their anxiety to be allowed to trade under the title of a drink which they assert to be inferior. The principle of warranty is one which it is difficult to attack, and it is this principle which furnishes one of the grounds upon which I ask the House to pass the Bill. It is the principle which underlies all legislation with respect not only to the adulteration of food, but to trade-marks, the hall-marking of precious metals, and like public safeguards. It is a principle which is already applied by law to beer in the greatest beer-drinking country in the world, and in most other countries force of public opinion is such as to render the employment of substitutes practically non-existent. In America considerable agitation is proceeding upon the lines of the much-derided Pure Beer Bill. But then our American cousins do not know what is to their interest ! They are just the sort of people to take their cue from the poor down-trodden agriculturists in the east of England. They have found, as we have found, that there is in the drink of the people a possibility of ingredients from extraordinary sources, and with the proverbial promptitude and quickness of their race a Pure Beer Bill quite as drastic as anything I have ever had the honour of introducing to this House is to be brought forward during the present session, and will probably be passed into law. With regard to the feeling in this country on the question, I may say that I myself have received 350 resolutions from boards of guardians, councils, and other bodies, unanimously urging me to persevere with this Bill. You cannot afford to ignore or despise those expressions of opinion.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY: Have those resolutions been passed since this Bill was framed?

*SIR CUTHBERT QUILTER: No, not all; but a very large number have been received every day since the Bill was completed. They have been in support of the principle that I have always advocated, and which we have endeavoured to embody in this Bill.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): Were they for pure beer?

*SIR CUTHBERT QUILTER: Those that I have received were for my Bill; I suppose they have trusted me to introduce——

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: A Pure Beer Bill.

*SIR CUTHBERT QUILTER: As pure a beer Bill as possible. Besides those that I have received, I am aware that a great many other resolutions have been passed by public bodies of all kinds, amounting to between 450 and 500. It is, therefore, impossible for any agriculturist or town Member to say that he is not aware of the very strong feeling which exists in the constituencies on this subject. I have heard of instances in which the question has exercised an important influence on elections. One of the most remarkable cases is that of the hon. Member for Battersea. I can hardly imagine what the House would have been without the hon. Member for Battersea, but without him we should have had to be, but for the Pure Beer Bill. It so happened that the hon. Member was engaged in a very severe contest, his opponent being none other than one of the largest, if not the largest, manufacturer of brewing sugars in the country. But when our hon. friend was sore beset and feared defeat he raised the oriflamme of purity, and emerged the victor from the fight.

May I now deal very briefly with some of the provisions of the Bill? It will be noticed that it differs from the Bill of 1896, in that it does not appropriate the use of the word "beer" to beer made from malt and hops only, but we distinguish between beer so brewed and that in which substitutes are employed, by calling the one "malt beer" and the other "part-malt beer." The reason of that is obvious. I should have liked to retain the old title, but there is a great deal of force in the argument that if you say one thing is pure you thereby convey the imputation that others are impure. Hon. Members have tried to make out that we are making such an imputation in the words "part-malt beer," but I think that is an accusation which cannot be much relied upon. We have endeavoured to deal as gently as possible with the susceptibilities of the brewer, but it would have been very different if we had had the Pure Beer Bill. I understand one hon. Member to say that he would much prefer to vote for the Pure Beer Bill. All I can say is that if we had known there would be sufficient support for the Pure Beer Bill I should naturally have preferred to ride the horse I have always ridden. We have been most anxious not to hurt the susceptibilities of the brewers, and, I think, we have pretty well succeeded, because the champions of the brewers here to-day have not really tackled the merits of this Bill. They have done their part very cleverly and nicely, but I think I recognise underlying their arguments some of the old friends. The old horses have been trotted out again about foreign barley, the interference with trade, and various other things. Whatever may be said about the names on the back of the Bill, I contend that the measure, as it is drawn, is a consumers' Bill, and I challenge anybody to say it is not to the benefit of the consumer.

Under Section 1; if a purchaser asks for malt beer he will know what he is getting. If he does not ask for malt beer he will know he is getting something else, which may or may not contain deleterious ingredients. We shall, no doubt, be told that malt beer cannot be regarded as free from deleterious ingredients. A word ought to be said upon that, but I think I may leave it to my right hon. friend. I have heard it remarked by a noble Lord at the head of a great brewing firm, that you would have to drink a thousand barrels of beer made from barley malt before you drank enough arsenic to do any harm. The arsenic is not in the malt but on it, and no doubt a process of screening will remove it. Section 2 I will leave to the able representatives of the hop interests to deal with. Sections 3 and 4 speak for themselves. Section 8 is designed to meet the case of a district in which the houses might be tied to a brewer who refused to supply malt beer. That such cases exist the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouth can testify, as in the recesses of the New Forest I have heard that such houses are to be found. There would be no hardship in requiring that malt, as well as part-malt beer should be kept, because there are 10,000 brewers in the country, of whom 5,000 brew all-malt beer, so that there would be no difficulty in the part-malt brewers obtaining a supply of all-malt beer for their tied houses. It has been said that this Bill was unfair to the English brewers as against the foreigner. That is not so at all. The Bill deals in a very fair manner with the question, and emphasises the fact that henceforth nothing is to prevent or affect the application to beer of the Food and Drugs Act, and that is really an important question. In connection with that legislation I should like to reiterate what I have before urged as to the necessity of appointing some Court of Reference composed of scientific and business men whose duty it would be to fix standards of purity for all articles of food and drink.

I will not refer to-day to Bavaria, or Austria, or Hungary, or Sweden, but there is one part of this kingdom which I am proud to say sets a bright example in respect of the purity of beer. Ireland sends us some of our greatest soldiers, our most eloquent orators, and it also sends us, with, I think, one exception, the products of all its breweries made entirely of barley malt and hops. We, the advocates of pure beer in this country, are grateful to them. I hope that we may look for their support to-day, and, I think I can promise them that if they are minded to take in hand that which may, perhaps, be called their national drink, we shall fully sympathise with them, and lend them all the help in our power. Just a word about temperance. I have expressed before, and I express again the opinion that this Bill, if passed, will be undoubtedly in the interests of true temperance. I believe that wiser counsels are prevailing in the councils of the leaders of the temperance party, and if that is so, they will have a great addition to their forces from all parties in this House. We shall have, I hope, plenty of criticism, but the brewers' interests evidently will be well looked after.

I want to say a word or two about the adequacy of analysis, which is the real difficulty to be met. I would ask the House to remember that our machinery will be adequate in ordinary cases, and that the analytical knowledge at present available is quite sufficient to supplement that machinery. If time had permitted I should like to have given a few words from the evidence of Mr. Clare Sewell Read, one of the most eminent authorities, but anyone can read that for themselves in the Beer Commission Report. The knowledge of our analysts by this arrangement will be largely extended. Under this Bill as it is drawn analysis is only required for the purpose of comparative examination, whichis a very different thing from analysis for the purpose of ascertaining the precise ingredients employed. I believe only occasional analyses would be found necessary, and with the additional machinery provided by this Bill the old methods would be found quite adequate. I do not believe that the brewers will be likely to object to the provisions of the Bill, and I have the assurance of several brewers of good standing to this effect. I will not trouble the House with the reasons given against the Bill in the circular, which has been sent to Members of this House, and the only allusion I will make to that matter is that it is very remarkable that the Country Brewers Association, who are supposed to have issued that circular, on this occasion seem to have withdrawn a little from the front, and put their London *confreres* in the front of the battle. Can that be due to the fact that one of the consulting advisers of the Country Brewers Association was also the scientific adviser to Messrs. Bostock and Co.? That may be so or it may not, but Members of this House are quite capable of judging what their statements are worth. I must refer to the very large number of petitions in favour of this Bill. I am aware that the House does not attach much importance to petitions, because as a rule they are got up by wealthy and powerful organisations. But that is not so in the present case, for the feature of these petitions is that they have come almost entirely from the working classes, and among a bundle of them received this morning were petitions from nineteen counties, and intended to be handed to Lord Salisbury by a deputation. One was very interesting, because it came from a historic village in Oxfordshire. It came from Chalgrove, sacred to us all as being the place where that great Parliamentarian Hampden met his death. Every adult in that village signed the petition in favour of this Bill, thus showing that the same independent spirit still lives in Oxfordshire. Two working men from the Stowmarket Division of my county have written to me to say that in a few days they had succeeded in getting the signatures of two or three thousand of their fellow workmen in favour of this Bill. I think that pretty clearly shows that whether the working classes in the towns or in the country are right or wrong, they are strongly in favour of some legislation of this kind, and it is not too much to hope that this House will listen to the prayers of these men. I ask the House to think of the health and strength of those men from whom our Army and Navy are recruited, and if they will adopt this measure they will strike another blow for what should be the inalienable right of Englishmen—namely, the right to be supplied with what they ask for, and that they may continue to have their national drink made as of yore, not from Spanish pyrites or German sawdust, but from the produce of their own country.

*Colonel BROOKFIELD (Sussex, Rye): Before making any other observations, I should like to express my regret that my hon. friend the Member for the North-West Division of the county which I represent made a speech so extremely hostile to this Bill. I am much surprised at one of the grounds upon which he did so, for he said that there was no demand for this measure. If that is the case I can only say that the habits and customs of the inhabitants of the northwestern part of Sussex compared with those in the east must be very different, and I venture to say that they must belong to a different order of intelligence also. My hon. friend has said that this is a new subject, but it is really a very old one, as all hon. Members who have been in the House as long as I have will be ready to confirm. This question has arisen quite spontaneously, and it came originally entirely from the general consumer, in whose interest the Bill is proposed. It would not be difficult to criticise the drafting of this Bill, but I would ask hon. Members to recollect that apparent inconsistencies and incongruities in a measure of this kind always represent some compromise, or attempt at compromise, with the various hostile interests. Personally I wish the Bill had been more uncompromising. My interest in the Bill is mainly confined to what the House, perhaps, regards as a side issue, but which is one of great importance to those I represent. Clause 2 provides "that it shall not be lawful to use in the brewing of beer for sale any article being a substitute for hops." The two questions which arise are whether substitutes of this kind are used and whether their use is injurious and ought to be prohibited. Perhaps I may remind hon. Members, if I am not detaining them with technical matter, what the function of the hop is. The hop as used by the general consumer is used as a bittering agent, and gives a peculiar aroma to the beer. It is also used to clarify, and it is important in connection with this question of substitutes to remember that a great use is made of the hop as a preservative, and it is as a preservative that it perhaps performs its most useful function. I will take the case of substitutes in a few words. I do not believe that they are used to any enormous extent. They are certainly not used by the most respectable firms of brewers.

The use of substitutes undoubtedly came in during what is known as the "hop famine" year, in 1882, when there was a great scarcity of legitimate material. We have nothing but circumstantial evidence upon this point, but the figures are extremely significant, and I must ask the House to hear them. In the year 1882 certain compounds, or drugs, or chemicals went up enormously in price, and I think no candid man will deny the cause of it. Colombo root rose from 22s. to 95s.; chamomile, from 40s. to 120s.; quassia, from £5 to £40 a ton; and guinea grain, from 32s. to 60s. There was really no attempt made to explain this extraordinary rise in price in any other way than by the fact that hops had suddenly become very dear. There were many other evidences with which I could trouble the House of the existence of these substitutes, and in the inquiry before the Beer Materials Committee in 1897 a list of them, which originally appeared in the *Mark Lane Express*, was handed in in evidence, and will be found in the appendix of their proceedings. There is conclusive circumstantial evidence to be derived from the fact that advertisements for these compounds appeared in all the brewers' journals, and it is fair to assume that they were sold, and sold in order to be used. One hon. Member said there were only eight vendors of substitutes—I think he meant malt substitutes—but I hold in my hand, curiously enough, a list of eight vendors of hop substitutes. One firm especially advertises in the *County Brewers' Gazette* as follows—

> "Don't use any other preservative. Kallissaline is, without doubt, the best preservative for stock and running ales."

Whatever "kallissaline" may be, it is certainly not hops. Another advertiser calls attention to a "Hop Supplement," and goes straight to the point by saying—

> "The hop supplement (called 'H. S.'), to save one-third of the hops, and supplement the hops used, with valuable keeping properties," etc.

I do not think that it can really be contended that these substitutes do not exist; but, at the same time, I think it is only the very low class brewer that uses them; and that in my opinion is all the more reason why the House should not hesitate for a moment to put a stop to their employment. I could give stronger reasons than those I have already adduced as to the evidence of their actual use, and also the harm which they cause. Mr. Chapman is a great authority in the brewing world; he is an analytical chemist and expert, and he says this, to which I particularly call the attention of those who say that no substitutes are used:—

> "The various sulphites and salicylic acid are alone used to any extent, and in far too many breweries these substances are regarded as regular brewing materials to be used on all occasions."

He also describes salicylic acid as the brewer's preservative *par excellence.* I am not a chemist myself, neither am I an expert in these matters, but I think most hon. Members of this House, and certainly the general consumer, would have a prejudice against the indiscriminate use of salicylic acid when they are drinking it in their refreshment in a liquid form. I have been unable to consult any more erudite authority than the *Encyclopædia Britannica* to see the effect of salicylic acid, and that authority says—

> "The addition of salicylic acid to articles of food must be considered dangerous. When taken for some time it produces deafness, giddiness, and noises in the ears, lowering the temperature, reducing the pulse and rapidity of respiration, causing death by the paralysis of the respiratory organs."

We have seen these symptoms in the consumers of beer before now, though we may not have attributed them to salicylic acid. I say we ought to prohibit such dangerous materials entirely from being used as adjuncts to beer. Another compound used to a considerable extent is bisulphite of lime. This is prepared by burning sulphur or sulphur compounds, such as iron pyrites. Sulphurous acid is formed and this case is passed into water containing caustic lime, and the bisulphite results. It is probable, therefore, that some of the arsenic found in beer is due not only to the glucose, but to the use of bisulphite of lime in an impure state as an antiseptic. And upon this point I take as my authority Hooper's "Text Book on Brewing," which speaks of large doses of bisulphite being added in many cases, and mentions that it is often done so ignorantly that even the large quantities used fail to produce the desired effect. That is entirely from the brewer's point of view, but the con

Colonel Brookfield.

sumer has a still greater interest in not being made the subject of experiments of this kind. One more quotation on this subject of bisulphite of lime:—

> "The strong point in favour of bisulphite of lime as a preservative is that when first added to beer its loosely combined sulphurous acid will exert a paralysing effect on the disease organisms present, and that after a time it will by oxidation become converted into innocuous sulphate of lime, and so will have no lasting influence on the flavour. In the majority of cases this is so, but unfortunately some bacteria have the power of producing the malodorous sulphuretted hydrogen from this compound, and the remedy then becomes almost worse than the disease."

It, in fact, becomes poisonous, and surely there can be no harm in promoting a Bill to prevent the use of poisonous materials. My hon. friend said, and I quite agree, that the Manchester epidemic has brought this matter within the sphere of practical politics. But year after year Bills have been brought in dealing with the same subject. I could never quite understand why the Food and Drugs Act could not have been made to comprehend the legislation we are now asking for. None of the hon. Members speaking for or against the measure have so far dealt with the subject from that standpoint, though I think it is a strong one, and in perfect harmony with public opinion. I sincerely hope that the Bill will be read a second time. Its main objects everyone, will agree, are reasonable, and ought to be supported by the House.

*MR. ARMINE WODEHOUSE (Essex, Saffron Walden) said that a good many of the speeches which had been delivered confused the issues upon which the Bill had been presented to the House. The simple position of the matter was that in 1896 the hon. Member for the Sudbury Division of Suffolk introduced a Bill upon the subject of pure beer, which was withdrawn upon an assurance being given by the Government that they would appoint a Departmental Committee to inquire into the matter. That Departmental Committee had been described as one of the best which had ever been appointed, but that depended upon the way one looked at it. The Government liked a Committee whose inquiries resulted in a recommendation that nothing should be done, that there was no danger, and that in this, the best of all worlds, everything was for the best. But there was one member of the Committee—Mr. Clare Sewell Read—who proved himself to be a Balaam among the prophets. He dissented from the comfortable conclusions arrived at by the members of the Committee who signed the Majority Report, and his prophecies, spoken with the fearless perception of a seer, had turned out true. No one could deny that the sad story of loss of life in Lancashire had proved to the hilt that arsenic could appear in beer brewed from glucose. [AN HON. MEMBER: And in beer brewed from malt.] He did not think that that had been conclusively proved, but there was no doubt that it had been found in beer brewed from glucose. That fact alone was sufficient reason for the Bill which was now before the House for Second Reading.

A great many arguments had been used in opposition to the Bill. There was the argument of Protection. He denied emphatically that there was anything in the Bill contrary to the strictest Free Trade principles. Then it was said it was in the interests of the barley growers. Was it for hon. Gentlemen on the Government side of the House, who specially desired to be considered the friends of the distressed agriculturist, to use that argument? If this Bill was right in principle, and not contrary to the principles of Free Trade, and was only doing what had been done in the analogous case of butter and margarine, it was surely no reason for rejecting it because its effect might possibly benefit the farmer. Then it was said that the public liked light, bright beers, which could not be brewed from malt, but only from these chemical substitutes. He had lunched with two brewer friends a few days previously, and in regard to that argument, he was anxious to see what beer they preferred; and he noticed on that occasion they ordered "Bass." Messrs. Bass did not brew with substitutes, and his brewer friends showed on that occasion which beer they preferred to drink. Anybody who liked light, bright beer, would have a far better chance of seeing that they got it under this Bill, and the brewers would have a greater demand for it. The object of the Bill was simply to enable the consumer to get the beer to drink which was brewed as he wished. Hon. Gentlemen knew perfectly well that under the present tied-house system the consumer had to take what was provided, especially in rural villages, and he especially commended the provision which gave power to licensing magistrates to insist upon malt beer being obtainable. This Bill could be no injury to the brewers, unless their desire was—and he did not for one moment say it was—to impose a particular class of beer upon their customers. The temperance party could not object to it, unless they desired—which he did not believe for a moment—that the fear of drinking arsenicated beer should deter the public from taking beer at all; and the Chancellor of the Exchequer could not object to it, because as he (Mr. Wodehouse) was informed, beer brewed of malt and hops had a higher gravity of alcohol, and was, therefore, better for revenue purposes. Legislation to define beer, to restore the liberty of the consumer to get the article he desired, was demanded by all sections of the community, and he earnestly hoped that the House would pass the Second Reading of the Bill, and that the Government would nerve themselves to the effort of giving it some support. If they did not, he could assure them they would hear of the subject again. The Bill could do no harm, and, as he maintained, must prove a valuable reform; and what was most important of all, it was urgently called for for the protection of the health of the people.

*SIR MICHAEL FOSTER (London University) said the main object of the Bill in the first place was to encourage the brewing of good sound beer, and in the second to assist the barley growers. He sympathised with the object which the promoters of the Bill had in view, yet, when he examined it in the cold light of reason, he could not but think that those who were pressing the Bill were going far to defeat their own object. As a moderate drinker of beer he was in favour of a good sound article, and, also, living among barley growers, he was desirous of encouraging his friends and neighbours in the growth of that grain. Still, when he looked at the Bill from the technical, from the scientific point of view he could not support it. In the debate on the Address one hon. Member asked for a definition of beer, but it was not given. What was beer? Beer was a fluid which, besides water, contained a certain quantity of alcohol and a small quantity also, not more than from 5 to 7 per cent., of a mixture of other substances, some of which were well known, some but little known, and some not known at all. It was these substances which he might speak of as "satellites" to the alcohol, which imparted to beer its distinctive characters. It was through those substances that beer was beer, and thus differed from any other alcoholic drink, such as whisky. The alcohol in whisky was the same as that in beer, and it was the character derived from those substances which was improved by the use of glucose or invert sugar; and, in the interest of scientific brewing, it was very undesirable to interfere with its use. The alcohol, from whatever substance it was derived, was still the same alcohol; it was the presence of these substances in their due proportion and in proper quantities which mainly determined the effect of the beer; whether, for instance, a man was wholly better for having drunk the beer, or whether, feeling better for a little while, he felt later on much worse. Certain of the above substances to which chemists gave long scientific names were, with the exception of one or two, created in the beer, came from malted barley, and could not be got from anything else. Barley was absolutely essential for making beer. Alcohol might be obtained from a variety of substances, and what was very curious was, that however formed it was the same alcohol as that formed from barley by brewing; and one effect of the introduction of glucose or invert sugar was to give an additional amount of alcohol to the beer. The complex changes which took place in brewing, and especially in the fermenting vat, were governed by the relation of the quantity of sugar to the quantity of other substances. A certain relation was necessary to bring about the desired result, namely, a certain quantity of alcohol, accompanied by an adequate quantity and number of these satellites. The object of the scientific brewer—and he used the term in spite of the reference to "*pseudo*-science" by an hon. Member who had addressed the House—in adding sugar to the natural products of the malt was not simply to save so much of the starch of the barley, but because the barley alone contained an insufficient quantity of starch to bring about the desired changes.

He often had to travel by rail; and in order to increase his information he travelled, whenever possible, third class. He obtained in this way a great deal of knowledge which he should lose by travelling first-class. At the time of the arsenic-poisoning epidemic he remembered that his fellow-travellers were much agitated about "this 'ere glucose," which they thought was an altogether foreign thing, something altogether strange; and they were strongly impressed when they were told that it might be made from cotton waste. It was true that it might be so made; but, dirty as this substance might be at the beginning, it could be reduced to perfectly pure glucose absolutely identical with that produced by the vital activity of the barley and malt itself. It was simply adding a little more of what the barley produced itself, and the scientific brewer was using glucose simply because the barley alone was insufficient to produce the beer desired by the consumer. It was not merely substituting something for barley that was cheaper than barley. When the practice was introduced invert sugar was not cheaper than barley. The invert sugar was used simply by the brewer for the proper scientific carrying out of his operations. He appealed to the House to consider that if they prevented this scientific brewer, who had to deal with the common barley of England, from treating it in a scientific manner they would be hindering a development of the country. It was possible to get glucose absolutely free from impurity. That was one of the advantages of science. There were, no doubt, many disadvantages of science, but one of the advantages was that it enabled one to know when glucose was pure. The Manchester incident had no essential connection with the manufacture of beer; but it had distinct reference to the fact that our laws were not adequate to deal with the increasing dangers of modern civilisation. Every scientific advance brought with it evil as well as good. That had been the case ever since the Fall. Every scientific improvement brought with it a scientific danger. There was one danger attending the riding and driving of horses; there were other dangers of quite a different kind in meddling with electricity. All the world over chemical manufactures and substances were being thrown upon us; and our Food and Drugs Act needed to be amended to afford us the proper protection. This Manchester incident, which had been spoken of as an accident, ought to have been foreseen. If there had been an adequate watch kept over the materials which we took as food, it might have been foreseen that the consumption of sulphur in the South African War might lead the manufacturers of sulphuric acid to resort to pyrites. In that way the public should be protected, and not by a measure of this kind. Brewing had become a scientific occupation. Every year it was improving. Every year there was a tendency to produce for the consumer a better and more wholesome article at a lower price; and, as a scientific man, he desired to say that this measure was directly retrograde, was opposed to scientific methods, and would have an injurious effect upon scientific brewing.

*Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT: I congratulate the House upon a novel feature in its debates. We have had the advantage of obtaining information—as does not always happen—from the man who knows most about the subject of any one in the House. He has told us much that is interesting. He has given the House warning that it should not act without consideration in this matter. He has told us, what was not known before, that the Manchester arsenic epidemic was an indirect consequence of the South African War. All the sulphur of the world has been consumed there, and we have nothing more to hope for until there are further eruptions of Vesuvius. But there is another feature of the debate which I deplore. I have always looked forward to this occasion—the discussion of a Pure Beer Bill—as to one of the most cheerful incidents of the Parliamentary session. The Bill used to be introduced by my hon. friend the Member for Sudbury with that genial joviality which adds ornament to his eloquence. But there was a tone of depression to-day about my hon. friend's speech. I observe that instead of the former independence of his attitude, indicated by his place below the gangway, he now speaks from above the gangway. He has changed places with the right hon. Member for Sleaford. But there is a still more fatal change than the change in the hon. Member for Sudbury, there is a remarkable change in the title of the Bill. It used to be a "Pure Beer Bill." But the adjective has disappeared. It is now only a "Beer Bill," and the purity has evaporated. There is no profession that this Bill is a Bill for securing what the community at large desires—the purity of its beer. The hon. Member and the distinguished scientist who has just addressed the House with so much authority and ability has studied the question in those great schools of beer in which we all graduated—I mean in the Universities, which may excel more or less in their classics and mathematics, but above all excel in the quality of their beer. I speak as a member of a college which prided itself, above all things, on its Audit Ale, whose consequences were most cheerful at the moment, though it sometimes happens that they were not quite so pleasant later on.

But I wish to call attention to the character and title of this Bill. A Pure Beer Bill—that is what the country has asked for; and that is what this Bill is not. It has no pretence to be a Pure Beer Bill. Any one hereafter may sell a beer that is not pure just as he did before, so long as he does not label it as "malt beer." As for my hon. friend the Member for Sudbury, I can no longer salute him as the true Simon Pure. He is an altered man. We were accustomed to a charming literary discourse upon the origin and history of beer, but in his depression to-day my hon. friend did not go further back than Egypt, and he quoted the opinion of Herodotus, whom I was surprised to hear him call the most truthful of historians. In that respect my hon. friend differed from the poet Juvenal, who described Herodotus as the most audacious of liars. But my hon. friend appeals to us to-day in a name which he knew would be venerated on this side of the House—the name of Hampden. But why did he not appeal in the name of Cromwell, who is supposed to have been connected with the brewing trade? I am inclined to think that it was principally on that account that his monument was ever allowed to be erected even outside the Houses of Parliament. My hon. friend referred to the hon. Member for Battersea, and he said that he had won his battle upon a basis upon which we shall all rejoice—upon the basis of purity. He said that he had hoisted the oriflamme of purity. Yes, but what has become of the oriflamme of purity? The hon. Member for Sudbury no longer flies the oriflamme of purity; he is no longer a "pure beer" man; he is simply a "beer" man. What is it that has led to this unfortunate deterioration and degradation in the character of the hon. Member for Sudbury? It is that which happens very often to many men—he has got into bad company. He has gone into partnership with the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Sleaford. I can understand this coalition; it is like a famous coalition of old; but, if I may borrow an image from Mr. Pitt, I would say that I do know a just and lawful impediment, and before this ill-omened alliance is consummated, "In the name of pure beer I forbid the banns." No, Sir, I can well understand the basis of that alliance. My hon. friend is a simple-minded and innocent man. His purity was undoubted until he met the seducer, the Member for Sleaford. The Member for Sleaford came to him and said, "Purity is all nonsense; what we want is higher-priced barley." So that the purity of the hon. Member for Sudbury unfortunately succumbs; he strikes "pure" out of the title of the Bill, and the purity of his style to-day is not what it was before. The object is accomplished, and we understand now, perfectly well, what this Bill is and what is the result of the coalition. We understand also the enthusiasm for this Bill, which has got rid of purity, in quarters where it was not supported so eagerly before.

As to the first feature of the Bill. The question is, assuming that the object is to promote the consumption of malt and so to advance the price of barley, whether, when we are going to commit a crime, it is not worth considering whether it will be profitable. When I studied this question on a former occasion I confess I doubted whether the landed interest are going to get as much out of this Bill as they expect. What they expect, of course, is to have an increased consumption of barley. I dare say there will be an increased consumption of barley, but it is not so certain that it will be an increased consumption of their own barley. That is a different question. I am sorry to say, with great respect for the agricultural interest, that they have weaknesses which have existed ever since the time of Virgil, who said, "How happy are the landed interest if they only knew their own advantages"; but in that respect they have always been somewhat defective. At the time when I entered Parliament I remember that the one thing they desired was to do away with the malt tax. They succeeded. Now the greatest mischief that ever happened, according to them, was the repeal of the malt tax. I am afraid there may possibly happen to them, with reference to this attempt to increase the price of barley, what happened in the case of the malt tax. No doubt there is a portion of this kingdom, which I regard with special interest and affection, because it is the most Liberal county of England, which will derive benefit—I mean the county of Norfolk, and I am sure that the House will have heard with great pleasure and satisfaction the speech of my hon. friend the Member for Saffron Walden, who represents a great Norfolk family. They represent the class of high-priced barley; but the majority of barley interests in this country are second and third class barleys, and the question is when this Bill is passed what will be the price of these barleys, and how far it will affect those barleys above 30s. and the lower class of barleys above 20s. [Cries of "26s."] I am speaking of inferior barleys which are used in brewing, but these are matters upon which I do not profess to descend into particulars. But I recommend to their consideration what you have been told by persons who are well acquainted with the question, that if the brewer is to be confined to barley alone he may take foreign barley rather than second-rate English barley. The Bill will not accomplish what they desire.

It is said that this Bill is going to give to every man the opportunity of having the beer he wishes. That is one argument held forth in favour of this Bill. That is a very good thing if it accomplishes the aim, but it does not accomplish it at all. What prevents people from getting the beer they choose to ask for is a totally different thing. It is the tied-house system. A whole district is engrossed by one brewer. He gives any sum of money to get hold of these public-houses, and having got hold of them he does not serve the public with the beer they ask for or wish for, but the beer which it suits him to brew. He insists not only upon giving them the beer he chooses, but he insists on the publican in many cases taking other materials—tea, coffee, mineral waters, tobacco, and spirits from him, and at much higher prices than they are served to any one else. The tied public-house is served at a much higher price with the beer than is charged to a free house in the neighbourhood. I have seen it stated that the difference in the charge for beet to the tied public-house is 16 or 20 per cent. That is a thing which the hon. Member for Sudbury was good enough to say in the eighth clause he had taken into special consideration for my particular behoof, but I find that I cannot insist upon having any beer I like under this clause. I can only insist on having malt beer, though it may be that I desire some other kind of beer. My experience is that these strong malt beers are not the most popular form of beer to-day. The old strong malt beer which in our youth we were so proud to drink disappears in more advanced years in favour of lighter beer. In my own household I do not drink beer myself, but I find that the beer which all my friends desire to drink is the beer called Pilsener, and I am told that there is a great consumption of it in this House. This led me to inquire what Pilsener was, and going to the fountain head of knowledge in the person of my hon. friend the Member for Sudbury I asked whether beer drinkers might be able to order Pilsener at any public-house. He said, "No, Pilsener is brewed from rice." But if the public is going to drink beer brewed from rice what is the value of Clause 8?

*SIR CUTHBERT QUILTER: I want the right hon. Gentleman to consult the evidence of Mr.---- [Cries of "Order."]

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: Oh, no; I want him to consult the Sleaford interest. If it will only allow you to order malt beer, and if people want beer brewed from rice, I should like to know whether his partner, the Member for Sleaford, will agree in Clause 8 that the word "malt" shall be added to the word "rice." That would be a test as to whether the object of this Bill is to let everyone have what they want, or whether it is only to force upon them a beer made of a particular commodity which answers the purpose of the Member for Sleaford. I am afraid that in many Bills in this House there is a great deal of—what shall I say, glucose?—but of hypocrisy in this Bill being called a Bill for improving the quality of beer, while as a Bill for allowing people to have any beer they like there is no attempt at anything of the kind. Really, what is this Bill going to do? Supposing the brewer wants to supply to his customer the old beer to which he has been accustomed. He will brew it, I suppose, all the same. Under the Bill you make no restrictions as to whether he is to use glucose or sugar, or anything else. He is to do that as before; but you say, under Clause 8, that he must also offer a thing which is labelled as malt beer, and he will have it, I suppose, upon sale, but he will have it on sale on whatever terms he likes. He may say to his customer: "Oh, here is malt beer. That is 4d. a quart. But here is the old beer you are used to, and which you like. You can have that at 3d." What comes, then, of the operation of this Bill? It is just like in a public-house, calling for an ordinary glass of brandy, and compelling a man to drink liqueur brandy. I am told that beers which are brewed with sugar are brighter beers than beers brewed exclusively from malt, and they suit the public taste. If these things are true, then the operation of this Bill will come to little or nothing at all. If that be so, then the worst or the best of this Bill is that it will have no effect at all. If this were a Bill for effecting in a useful and practical manner the purity of the beer my hon. friend the Member for Sudbury knows well, I would embrace him and the Bill at once. I said to him, "You may rely upon my support for a Bill for pure beer." To my disappointment, he comes and presents a Bill which is not a Bill for pure beer at all, but leaves out the only quality I particularly care about. I cannot see that this Bill will be of any particular value, and it is a great disappointment to me that my hon. friend the Member for Sudbury should have abandoned the character he so much adorned, and should have struck that flag under which for so many years he "braved the battle and the breeze."

MR. CHAPLIN (Lincolnshire, Sleaford): After the speech of the hon. Member for London University and the highly amusing speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouthshire, I must say I feel some little trepidation in addressing the House. The right hon. Gentleman said that my hon. friend the Member for Sudbury had been seduced into bad company by the Member for Sleaford for some dark design which had not been made clear. The right hon. Gentleman, doubtless, would be very glad indeed if he could "seduce" my hon. friend back again to his own side of the House. It will be a long time, however, before he can induce my hon. friend to take any course of that kind.

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: Vice is stronger than virtue.

MR. CHAPLIN: That can hardly be the case when the right hon. Gentleman is concerned. I acknowledge that the speech of the right hon. Gentleman was the most excellent piece of fooling which we have heard for some time. The right hon. Gentleman was in his very best vein, and in that character he was the more grateful to me, because it showed that the right hon. Gentleman had nothing in earnest to say against the Bill. The right hon. Gentleman, as I understand, took some exception to Clause 8 of the Bill as being part of the nefarious scheme of the Member for Sleaford. As a matter of fact, I had no more to do with Clause 8 than the right hon. Gentleman himself. Then he gave us some information with regard to Pilsener beer, which he said was brewed from rice.

*SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: As I was informed by the Member for Sudbury.

MR. CHAPLIN: So far from Pilsener being made of rice, I am informed that exactly the opposite is the case. It came originally from Germany and Austria, more particularly, where they are forbidden to use substitutes for malt on all occasions. ["No."] The beer is as pure as could be desired, and that is the reason why Pilsener beer has become so popular. It is not true that my motive in supporting this Bill is to increase the price of barley in this country; but, still, as an incident arising from the endeavour to prevent this, one hon. Member criticised the phraseology of the Bill. I am not concerned with the phraseology of the Bill, but it is certainly new to me in this House to hear an hon. Gentleman say he would not vote for a principle in which he believed. It has been said that this is nothing but a landlords' Bill, the motive of which is simply to artificially raise the price of English barley. I do not know whether it is a landlords' Bill or not, but I do know that I have received information that some forty or fifty of the largest trade unions of this country have passed resolutions warmly supporting it. It has been stated that my first object in taking up this question has been to increase the price of barley. That is not true. My first object was to prevent a recurrence of the poisoning of hundreds and thousands of people in all parts of the country. At the same time I have always hoped and believed, and I believe still, that, as an incident arising out of the proposals to try and prevent this poisoning in the future, it is possible that we shall be able to do something to keep the plough going in many parts of the country, and thereby to arrest the rural depression which every one laments, and which no one professes to lament more than the hon. Member for Stockport; and to provide more employment and better wages for a large part of the agricultural population, and so induce them to remain in the countryside. I am not ashamed of those views. I have voiced them before, and shall do so again without asking the consent of those who differ from me and who take a different view as to agricultural labouring classes of the country.

But to go back to the Bill and some of its critics. The right hon. Gentleman says that the best of this Bill is that it will come to nothing. Let us see. I do not think it will be much trouble to study the Bill, and I think, in spite of all that has been said, it does give and will give to the whole of the country actual pure beer, such as has always been advocated by my hon. friend the Member for Sudbury whenever it is wanted. The object of the Bill is perfectly simple; it draws a distinction between beer brewed from malt on the one hand, and beer brewed from malt substitutes on the other, and it provides that whenever beer of either description is sold, the bottle or vessel containing it, or where it is on draught, the engine or tap from which it is drawn, is to be labelled or marked so as to show to the person asking for it what kind of beer he is going to get, the object being to enable the customer to know what kind of beer it is, and in this way to give him an opportunity to protect himself and to prevent the possibility of his being poisoned in the future by beer like that supplied in Manchester, which we know was brewed from substitutes for malt in which the poison which has done so much harm was contained. And when contending that this Bill is insufficient for the purpose, and does nothing to prevent brewers using malt substitutes which may contain poison, hon. Members ought to remember that it was never professed that this was intended to be a complete measure. On the contrary, it was stated quite openly during the debate on the Address that although there were a great variety of ways in which this question could be effectively dealt with once and for all, that was a subject for legislation by the Government rather than by private Members, but that if the Government were unwilling to act pending the Report of the Royal Commission which they appointed, the least that ought to be done pending that Report was to give the people an opportunity of protecting themselves by a small measure requiring a declaration as to the materials of which the beer was composed. That is what is practically done by the Bill before the House, and is a complete fulfilment of our statements on the occasion of the debate on the Address; and for the purpose of giving effect to this Bill, machinery for detecting or tracing any false declaration has been provided until such time, and I hope that time will not be long postponed, when science will come to our aid and do what it is not at present able to do, to detect any false declaration and prevent such mischief as arose a short time ago at Manchester and elsewhere. It seems to me therefore that this Bill in that regard is a reasonable proposal.

Now I come to some other objections that have arisen. It has been stated that it would cast a slur upon the other kind of beer that was sold—that is the first charge that is brought against it. But how does it cast a slur? Both kinds of beer are treated in the same way, both have to make the required declaration, and if it be true, as alleged, that the beer manufactured from malt substitutes is so much better than the old-fashioned malt beer, the brewers of these beers ought to feel greatly obliged to us for giving them such a great advertisement, and enabling them to publish to all the world the fact that their beer is not brewed from malt alone.

The next charge is that there really was no reason for introducing this Bill, that the Manchester epidemic was an accident due to beer brewed from one form of substitute alone. To that I take exception, and I quote the evidence given by the county analyst of the county of Lancashire. He says that besides the firm of manufacturers in question, sugar from two other firms had been found to contain arsenic. The hon. Member with whose temperate speech this debate began told us that there were eight manufacturers of substitutes altogether. Well, three out of eight is a very dangerous percentage, and that makes the passing of this Bill all the more necessary.

Then it is said that if the Bill were passed it could not be administered. Why not? This Bill confers on the local authorities all the powers at present possessed by the officers of the Inland Revenue—enormously wide powers, under which they could do almost anything—and if this Bill is not administered properly it will be the fault of the local authorities, and not for the want of powers placed in their hands under the Bill. The only difference is this, that where these powers are used, and used with perfect success, in the interest of the revenue, we think it is not unreasonable to say that they should be used with equal success in the interests of public health. It has been said that all this Bill will do will be to harass the brewers and the publicans. No power is given to harass anybody, but if it is permissible to harass people for the purpose of revenue, surely it is just and permissible to harass them in the interests of public health.

My hon. friend said that arsenical poisoning might result from beer brewed from malt. I know that argument perfectly well, and a very ingenious red-herring it is to draw across the path, but where is the proof of it? I ask the hon. Gentleman now to give us a proof—to tell us the proportions in which arsenic has been found in beer brewed from malt. Nobody has been able to show that there is more than a mere trace of anything in beer brewed from malt alone that is prejudicial to health. We take our stand on the experience of hundreds of years, we say that malt is the same now as it was generations ago, and it is absolutely ridiculous to pretend that any danger can arise from beer containing only one 250th part of a grain of arsenic. It does not become dangerous until you have one sixteenth of a grain at least. If hon. Members refer to *The Times* of yesterday they will find in the report of the proceedings of the Royal Commission on Arsenic Poisoning that an eminent witness, a consulting chemist, said that beer made from malt was "absolutely safe," thus repeating the statement that was made this afternoon by my hon. friend below me.

Another charge that is made against the Bill is that it gives a preference to foreign beer over English beer. Now, I have always pointed out with regard to foreign beer that foreign beer is made under laws and conditions which prevent the use of malt or other substitutes altogether. I do not know if any foreign brewer has taken to using substitutes, but if any one of these brewers was found to be doing so, in the countries to which I have referred, in all human probability he would be lynched.

Then comes the objection raised by the right hon. Gentleman, and supported by the opponents of the Bill, that it will be injurious to the growers of inferior English barley, and I thought at first that possibly there might be something in that objection; but, so far as I am concerned, I am perfectly easy upon that point. If, as they say, these light, bright, sparkling beers which the public like cannot be made without the use of sugar, how is it that according to the Inland Revenue Returns more than half the brewers in this country brew their beer without sugar, from malt alone, and produce the same class of beer?

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: That is brewed from the highest price barley.

MR. CHAPLIN: So are all good beers. The right hon. Member does not suppose, surely, that a brewer who brews with barley malt successfully is going out of his way to buy bad barley. The right hon. Gentleman says it will tend to the use of foreign barley, and then he twits us with the mistake we made with regard to the malt tax, but it was not the repeal of the malt tax, but the introduction of the free mash tun which did the harm, which was forced upon us, thanks to Mr. Gladstone. It will perhaps induce a great increase in the use of foreign barley, but it will leave in its place the sugar which is now being used. Properly treated, I am prepared to say that the barleys of England can hold their own with all the barley in the world, and if all that is said as to the use of foreign barley is true it must tend to raise the price of foreign barley, and as a consequence the value of the barley of this country, although that is not the chief object as I have said before in this Bill. The hon. Gentleman the Member for London University told us in the peroration of his speech that this was a retrograde measure, and he explained to us how it was that the brewer would have to use foreign barley, and he said it was because he required more sugar than English barley produces. That may be so, and it may be the origin of sugar being used, but that is not the reason why 50 per cent., and sometimes 75 per cent. of sugar is used for this purpose—30, 40, 50, 60 and 70 per cent. is customarily used. It is used in these enormous quantities because it is infinitely more profitable. Then I am told that the Manchester epidemic was an accident which will never occur again, that the greatest precautions are being taken to prevent it, and that we may be perfectly safe in the future. Unfortunately I have heard things like that very often. That was very much what the previous Committee reported, and it is probably owing to that Report that sufficient care was not taken, which, if it had been taken might have prevented the loss of so many hundreds of lives, and prevented the grave and serious illnesses of which people are actually dying at the present time. I had one instance sent up to me two days ago. In a matter so serious to the public health we have no right to trust to the chapter of accidents. I frankly acknowledge that this Bill may not be all that is desired by some of the most ardent supporters of the movement, but at least it will give to the public the opportunity of protecting themselves by requiring a declaration to be made as to the materials of which beer is composed. This is no new principle in our legislation, it is done for other things for a less reason—namely, to prevent fraud. In my humble judgment, protection to life and health is even more important than protection from fraud. I can conceive of absolutely no objection to the Bill unless it be that it will enable a certain section of the brewing interest in this country to make even larger profits than they are making at present. But it does seem to me that the profits to be made in any industry are not to be weighed in the balance for a moment against the health and lives of the people, and I earnestly call on the House to vote for the Second Reading.

*Mr. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby): I will not detain the House for more than a few minutes while I explain the reasons why I mean to vote for the Second Reading of this Bill. It seems to me that the principle, machinery, and clauses of the Bill are three separate matters. There is a great deal to be said in criticism of the machinery, and I doubt very much whether the supporters of the Bill will ever be able to bring into practical use their phrases "malt beer" and "part-malt beer." Can anyone imagine an ordinary working man going into a public-house for what is now known as a pot of half-and half, and saying, in the phraseology of the Bill, "If you please, I want a quart of malt beer and part-malt beer, and a dash of part-malt porter and a dash of part-malt stout." By the time he got through that sentence the barman would, no doubt, be dissolved in laughter, and the poor man would never be served. Clause 8, dealing with the power of licensing justices to require malt beer to be sold, is a very dangerous principle to establish in connection with our licensing system. Whereas hitherto the province of the justices has been clearly defined, you propose by Clause 8 to allow them to impose other conditions on holders of licences which were never thought of before.

But the main question for the purposes of to-day's discussion is as to whether the principle of the Bill is to be supported or not. There is a great difference of opinion on both sides of the House as to what the principle is, but I venture to submit that the principle is that a man shall get what he wants. It is not the brewing of English barley as against foreign barley, not the prevention of arsenical poisoning, but that if a man wants to buy beer made of malt and hops, he should be able to buy it. I quite agree that the agitation in favour of pure beer has not "caught on" with the public, and that the agitation created by the arsenical poisoning has brought the attention of the public at large to the fact that all beer is not brewed from malt and hops, as they supposed. As a consequence there has grown up an agitation, which has undoubtedly considerable strength in the country, for a Bill to enable a consumer who wants a malt and hops beer to get a malt and hops beer. What are the arguments against the principle of the Bill? The hon. Member who moved its rejection dealt with it under four divisions. First of all he said it would not prevent arsenical poisoning. I do not think that anybody expects that it will. What it will do is that it will enable any man to avoid buying beer which contains arsenic. Then the hon. Member said that it would not conduce to the benefit of agriculture. That, I venture to say, is not an argument for or against the Bill. It may benefit agriculture. That opinion is held by many hon. Members of this House. I doubt it myself very much, for it seems to have been admitted by experts that if there is to be a benefit to anybody at all, it will benefit the people who grow the best kinds of barley; but these already find a ready market and fetch a high price, and the second classes of barley would not be helped at all—at least, I doubt whether they would. The third argument was that the Bill could not be administered. That was one of the strongest arguments against the Bill, and would be destructive to it if it could be proved. But the hon. Member's position is this. He says it cannot be proved by chemical analysis whether the beer is made from malt and hops only, or from substitutes. But the methods adopted by the Excise at the present time would afford a very large protection, and would enable a man to get what he wants. Again, the hon. Member says that you cannot exactly define beer, and that you cannot by chemical analysis distinguish beer made from malt and hops and beer made from substitutes. There is another very common case—you cannot define milk; but there is, I believe, a standard which is adopted by Somerset House as to what is milk; although it is not a standard which is considered complete or satisfactory, yet you can very often get something which is called milk in practice, but which does not satisfy all the requirements of Somerset House. The last argument is that the Bill would help foreign barley against English barley. Again, that may be the case.

COLONEL MILWARD: The foreign brewers.

*MR. CORRIE GRANT: I beg the hon. Member's pardon for my mistake. It is said that the Bill will keep foreign brewers. But, from the point of view of the consumer, I submit that that is not a reason for rejecting the Bill. The point of view of the consumer is that if he wants to drink Pilsener beer, or Bavarian beer, or the heavy Munich beer he knows what he is getting, and what he is paying for; but if he wants to drink English beer made from barley, hops, yeast, and water, let him have the opportunity of getting it. The strongest argument in favour of the Bill was actually used by the hon. Member who seconded its rejection. He mentioned the case of margarine and butter. I do not know whether the hon. Member has referred to former debates in the House on the question of making and selling margarine and butter. One of the strongest arguments used against the Margarine Act was that it would have the effect of depriving the poor consumer of the opportunity of getting what he was willing to pay for as butter, but not as margarine. The Bill passed, but the consumption of margarine has not ceased; in fact, the price of the best margarine is higher than that of the worst butter. Under that Act the trader has to disclose to the consumer what he is buying, but that has not injured the trade in margarine. And the same will happen with beer. A man who can sell beer brewed from substitutes for malt and hops will continue to brew it, and the consumer will be able to obtain what he wants. On these grounds I support the Second Reading of the Bill.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): It will not be necessary for me to detain the House at any length so near the close of the sitting, but I feel it is necessary to make a few observations in regard to this Bill. I admit that from the point of view of the Chancellor of the Exchequer this Bill is a distinct improvement upon other Bills which have preceded it from the hon. Member for Sudbury. There is no attempt in this Bill to confine the word beer to the liquid brewed wholly from malt and hops under penalty, and there is no attempt to describe beer brewed from other materials as adulterated. Therefore there is nothing to interfere directly or indirectly with the revenue or with the freedom of the mash tun, which some regard as such a prized privilege in the brewing of beer. But, in spite of that, there are difficulties in the Bill, which, holding the office I do, I feel it is my duty to put before the attention of the House of Commons. Nobody has suggested that this Bill will, in itself, put an end to the possibility of unwholesome and even of poisonous materials being used in the manufacture of beer, and it is perfectly obvious that if that can be done it must be attempted in a very different way. That being so, I do not think it is quite fair on the part of hon. Members who have supported this Bill to refer, as some of them have done, to the recent epidemic in Manchester and the neighbourhood and the danger that might arise from a recurrence of such epidemics, as reasons in support of the Bill. There was, no doubt, a very strong and very proper feeling throughout the country at the time of the occurrence of that epidemic that sufficient care had not been exercised in the choice of materials for brewing, and that in some way or other, through the Government or through the local authorities, there should be more stringent regulations made and enforced to secure the purity of materials used by brewers. With that object my right hon. friend the President of the Local Government Board recommended the appointment of a Commission to inquire into the actual facts of the Manchester epidemic, and to report what steps might be taken for the purpose to which I have referred. When that Report is received it will, no doubt, as my right hon. friend the Member for Sleaford has said, be the duty of the Government to deal with it and to make such proposals to Parliament as may be deemed necessary. This Bill does not touch that matter at all. Yet we are asked to support it on the ground of meetings held and of petitions presented to this House based upon the dangers of a recurrence of the epidemic, though those petitions were not presented with any reference to the Bill before us. The argument is now suggested to us by the hon. Member who has just sat down, and by the hon. Member for Peterborough, that though the Bill does not do anything directly to secure the wholesomeness of beer, yet it will have this effect—it will enable the consumer to ask for malt beer or partly malt beer, and that the consumer who desires to be safeguarded against poisonous ingredients will always ask for malt beer. Well, in the first place, it has been shown that there is a possibility of the presence of arsenic in malt itself.

MR. CHAPLIN: Not in the beer.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: In some instances, I believe, such a possibility has been shown, but at any rate I will consider that matter as *sub judice.* But beyond that, this Bill does nothing whatever to secure that the consumer who asks for part-malt beer shall have a wholesome liquor. That may be brewed from any materials whatever, even poisonous materials, and therefore, unless he asks for malt beer he is not safeguarded at all. If he does ask for malt beer is he quite sure of getting it? Is it possible under the provisions laid down by this Bill that he can have that security? I have gone carefully with the Inland Revenue authorities into the proposals in the Bill for carrying out the object, and I am bound to state to the House that, so far as I can judge, these securities are absolutely illusory. In the first place, the brewer has to ticket all the casks or other vessels in which he sends out beer as malt beer or partly malt beer. Well, if there was continuous supervision of the stock account of the brewer and of every delivery from his brewery, I suppose it might be possible, having regard to the comparatively small number of breweries in the United Kingdom, to secure that the contents are according to ticket. But the casks or bottles go to agents, go to bottlers, and thence are distributed over all the public-houses in the kingdom; and it would be absolutely impossible for the Excise authorities to follow the beer throughout the process, and it would be equally impossible for the officers of a local authority on whom the right hon. Gentleman desires to impose this duty to do so. Therefore by the time the beer reaches the consumer in the retail public-house, which is the time when you want to secure the guarantee that the beer is part malt or wholly malt, there can be no security that the label over the beer-engine, the bottle, or the cask actually represents the character of the beer inside.

Now, it has been said, with great reason, that the principle that a person who asks for a certain defined article should be entitled to the protection of the law from fraud has been accepted by Parliament. But I do not know that this principle has ever been accepted except in regard to articles which it would be possible to analyse to ascertain whether the article is what it is represented to be. This by common admission you cannot do. Throughout this debate it has been agreed that as between the beer brewed from malt and partly from malt analysis cannot determine the difference. Therefore we are utterly deprived of the ordinary safeguard that a purchaser has, if he chooses to take the trouble, to secure the article he requires. Under these circumstances, I confess that although I entirely accept the principle, to which the hon. Member who has just sat down attaches great importance, that there should be a safeguard to the purchaser, yet I cannot myself see how it is possible to apply the principle to this particular article of beer. It is my business to look at the matter from a practical point of view, for, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, I am responsible for the Inland Revenue, and cannot be guided by sentiment, which has prevailed a good deal on this question. I cannot, as I have said, see how it will be possible to enforce the provisions of the Bill, and therefore, though it is right to say I speak for myself rather than on behalf of the Government, I cannot give my vote in favour of the Bill.

MR. CHAPLIN rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put"; but Mr. Speaker withheld his assent, and declined then to put that Question.

COLONEL WALKER (Widnes) said it had been alleged by the right hon. Mem ber for Sleaford that certain firms did not use any sugar at all, and that Clause 9 was a protection for those firms. He did not know whether that was the case or not, but he would like to inform the House what that meant. It meant that those brewers used now three-fourths foreign barley and only one-fourth English barley, and in addition to that, in virtue of Clause 9, they could use "priming" which amounted to 1½ per cent. of unfermented sugar—1½ per cent. unfermented sugar was equal to three times that quantity of fermented sugar, which meant that the proportion of sugar used by these firms was no less than 4½ per cent.; and the proportion of sugar used by the brewers who used three-fourths English barley and one-fourth sugar was only 8 per cent. That was a point which ought to be considered by the House.

*MR. GROVES (Salford, S.) said that as one who had had experience of the trade for thirty years he should have a word or two to say on the subject. The moderate use of sugar had nothing in the world to do with the profits of the brewer. When the public demanded an article that could be produced by the addition of a small percentage of sugar rather than by malt alone, they must have it. In his own brewery he used an average of about 90 per cent. of English malt and 10 per cent. of sugar. Attention had been called to the recent deplorable epidemic and the arsenical contamination of one brand of brewing sugar, but he would like to emphasise the fact that the public analyst of Manchester had also found arsenic in malt. He had no particular objection to Clause 2, because the substitutes to which it referred were, he believed, entirely confined to the production of teetotal beverages. He knew hundreds of brewers, but he knew no single brewer who used these substitutes for hops in brewing beer. As to Clause 9, dealing with malt beer, he had the best reason for thinking that it had been deliberately put into the Bill for the purpose of arranging a compromise with certain large brewing firms. Under the operation of that clause they would be entitled to label beer as "malt" beer which was no more "all-malt" beer than that which was labelled "part-malt" beer. The Bill was too ridiculous for consideration. The brewers had no objection whatever to a measure of this kind drawn on reasonable and common-sense lines, and which would really provide for the purity of beer, but the present measure was so absurdly drawn that the clauses would be inoperative. He maintained that those concerned mostly in the purity of beer were those who manufactured it. He asked the House by rejecting this measure to say that it was an immature Bill, and required further consideration. Let the Bill be sent to the limbo of all ill-considered measures. The framers of the Bill, if it were repeated, would then have opportunities of amending it. As he had said, the brewers did not object to any of the principles of the Bill, but its clauses were so tied round with red tape and ridiculous anomalies that he had no hesitation—and he hoped the House would have none—in voting against it.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY (Shropshire, Newport) said that the hon. Member who had just sat down declared that the Bill was a ridiculous Bill. That might be his opinion, but there were hon. Members who differed from him, and their opinion was as good as his. Again, the hon. Gentleman said that those most concerned in the purity of beer were the manufacturers. That he entirely denied. The basis of the Bill was that it was the consumers who were principally concerned, and in the interests of the consumers he begged the House to read the Bill a second time.

*MR. GROVES said the hon. and gallant Gentleman had misinterpreted his meaning. What he meant when he said that the brewers were most concerned in the purity of beer was this—that unless they brewed good beer, to suit the popular taste, their trade and profits would very soon disappear and they might as well give up their business.

MR. RUTHERFORD (Lancashire, Darwen) said that the great objection which maltsters had to English barley was that it was often broken, and that brewers had to provide machinery for dressing it. If agriculturists were to dress their barley they would receive better prices for it. Generally brewers used 75 per cent. of malt, 10 per cent. of maize, and 15 per cent. of sugar; and a certain proportion of malt must always be used, no matter what other substitutes were employed. The working man would have a glass of beer, and a clear beer that sparkled, and the brewer was compelled, therefore, to produce the article which his consumer required. Unless he did so he would very soon lose his custom. He did not think the Bill a good measure, nor did he believe it would accomplish the object of its promoters, and therefore he should vote against it.

Question put, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

The House divided:—Ayes, 245; Noes, 133. (Division List No. 108).

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, Wm. (Rhondda)
Acland-Hood,Capt.SirAlex.F.
Aird, Sir John
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc.,Stroud
Ambrose, Robert
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bagot,Capt.Josceline FitzRoy
Baldwin, Alfred
Barlow, John Emmott
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bartley, George C. T.
Bayley, Thos. (Derbyshire)
Beach,Rt.Hn.W.W.B.(Hants.
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bignold, Arthur
Bill, Charles
Black, Alexander William
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Boulnois, Edmund
Bowles,Capt.H.F.(Middlesex)
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Col. Montagu
Brown,AlexanderH.(Shropsh.
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bull, William James
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Caine, William Sproston
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carlile, William Walter
Carvill,PatrickGeo.Hamilton
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish,V.C.W(Derbyshire
Cawley, Frederick
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colston, Charles E. H. Athole
Colville, John
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cremer, William Randal
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Dorington, Sir John Edward
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Dunn, Sir William
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. Hart
Edwards, Frank
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans,SirFrancisH(Maidstone
Faber, George Denison
Fellowes, Hon.AilwynEdward
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Finch, George H.
Firbank, Joseph Thomas
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Furness, Sir Christopher
Garfit, William
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gore, Hon. F. S. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon.George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Grant, Corrie
Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
Grenfell, William Henry
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. Wm.
Hardy,Laurence (Kent,Ashfd.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Heath,James (Staffords.N.W.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hermon-Hodge,RobertTrotter
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hobhouse, Hy. (Somerset, E.)
Hogg, Lindsay
Horner, Frederick William
Horniman, Frederick John
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard,Capt.J.(Knt.Faversh
Howard,J.(Midd.,Tottenham)
Hozier,Hon.JamesHenryCecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jeffreys, Arthur Frederick
Johnston, William (Belfast)
Jones,DavidBrynmor(Swans'a
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennaway, Rt.Hn.SirJohnH.
Kenyon-Slaney,Col.W.(Salop.
Lambert, George
Lambton, Hon. Fredk. Wm.
Lawson, John Grant
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham
Leighton, Stanley
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col.Chas. W. (Evesham
Lough, Thomas
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Lowther, Rt.Hn.James(Kent)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, ReginaldJ.(Portsm'uth
Macdona, John Cumming
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, James(Stirlingshire
M'Laren, Charles Benjamin
Malcolm, Ian
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Massey-Mainwaring,Hn.W.F.
Montagu, Hn. J.Scott(Hants.)
More, Robt.Jasper(Shropshire
Morgan,Hn.Fred.(Monm'thsh
Morgan,J.Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton,ArthurH.A.(Deptford
Morton, E. J. C. (Devonport)
Mount, William Arthur
Murphy, J.
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)

O'Doherty, William
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Mara, James
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir C. M. (Durham)
Partington, Oswald
Percy, Earl
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, John Wynford
Pickard, Benjamin
Pilkington, Richard
Power, Patrick Joseph
Pretyman, Ernest George
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Maj. Frederic Carne
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rentoul, James Alexander
Renwick, George
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Round, James
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Smith, H C (North'mb. Tyn's'de
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spear, John Ward
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Edward
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf. Univ.
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thomas, Alfred (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Tomkinson, James
Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C E H (Sheffield
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warde, Lieut.-Col. C. E.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Webb, Colonel William George
Weir, James Galloway
Welby, Sir Charles G. E (Notts.)
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Hn. Armine (Essex
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Young, Commander (Berks, E.)
Younger, William
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Purvis and Sir Cuthbert Quilter.

NOES.

Allhusen, Augustus H. Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther, H. T.
Asher, Alexander
Ashmead-Bartlett, Sir Ellis
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Austin, Sir John
Bain, Col. James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. H. (Bristol
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boyle, James
Brigg, John
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Crean, Eugene
Crombie, John William
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chath'm
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir R. Penrose-
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Fletcher, Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Foster, Sir Michael (Lon. Univ.
Greene, Sir E W (B'ry S Edm'nds
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury
Groves, James Grimble
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Haldane, Richard Burdon
Halsey, Thomas Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
Harwood, George
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Heaton, John Henniker
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hoare, Edw. Brodie (Hampste'd
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jackson, Rt. Hon. Wm. Lawies
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Joicey, Sir James
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (Denbigh)
Kitson, Sir James
Knowles, Lees
Labouchere, Henry
Lawrence, William F.
Leng, Sir John
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lundon, W.
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Dermott, Patrick
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Mooney, John J.
Morrell, George Herbert
Morris, Hon. Martin Henry F.
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, J. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Ratcliffe, R. F.
Redmond, William (Clare)
Reid, James (Greenock)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Rutherford, John
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alex.
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos Myles
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, E.)
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tennant, Harold John
Tollemache, Henry James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander

Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Wallace, Robert
White, Patrick, (Meath, North
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.
Whiteley, H. (Ashton u-Lyne
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-

TELLERS FOR THE NOES - Colonel Milward and Mr. Heywood Johnstone.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for to-morrow.

MIDLAND RAILWAY BILL.

GRAVESEND GAS BILL.

Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE.

Third Report brought up, and read; to lie upon the Table and to be printed.

Adjourned at twenty minutes before Six of the clock.

APPENDIX I.

STATEMENT

EXPLANATORY OF

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1901-1902.

The Navy Estimates for 1901-1902 amount to a net total of £30,875,500, being an increase of £2,083,600 beyond the amount of £28,791,900 voted for the year 1900-1901.

The Manning Vote (Vote 1) shows an increase of £233,000, due in the main to the increased number of men last year and this year.

Vote 8, Shipbuilding, &c., shows a net increase of £1,274,900.

Vote 9, Armaments, is increased by £161,800.

Vote 10, Works, is increased by £137,300.

The remaining Votes show a net increase of £276,600.

The comparison in every case is with the original Estimates of 1900-1901 plus the additional Estimates voted in July, 1900.

NUMBERS.

The total number of Officers, Seamen and Boys, Coastguard, and Royal Marines proposed for the year 1901-1902 is 118,635, being an increase of 3,745.

The additions proposed are to meet the needs of the Fleet, and are made up of—

287 Officers.
1.150 Seamen.
500 Stokers.
398 Miscellaneous.
310 Artizans (including 100 Electricians).
1,000 Marines.
100 Apprentices (Shipwrights and Coopers).

MOBILISATION.

The plans for strengthening and developing the system of Reserves, referred to in last year's Statement as under consideration, have been given effect to by the passing of an Act of Parliament to establish a new Reserve force, to be called the Royal Fleet Reserve. It will consist partly of men who have served in the Navy or Royal Marines and left without taking pension (Class B), and partly of men who have been pensioned (Class A). The Seaman Pensioner Reserve will be superseded eventually by the new Royal Fleet Reserve, but the present Royal Naval Reserve is not affected.

The first entries in the new force will be made from the first of March of this year, and it is hoped to eventually raise the numbers of Class B to 15,000. The men in the new Royal Fleet Reserve will undergo periodical drill.

In order further to facilitate mobilisation another Act of Parliament was also passed, enabling the Admiralty, when the Royal Naval Reserve is called by Royal Proclamation into actual service, to limit the numbers to be called out to such as may from time to time appear desirable.

The Coast Guard and Port Guard Ships, which heretofore have had only a portion of their crews on board, are now kept fully manned. An additional Coast Guard ship has been commissioned and established at Rathmullen, in Ireland.

THE ROYAL MARINES.

2,630 Recruits were raised for the Corps during the year 1900, the Artillery branch receiving 616 of this number, the remainder going to the Infantry Divisions.

For the Artillery branch the mean height was 5 feet 8 inches, for the Infantry 5 feet 6 inches.

The twelve months produced a wastage of 2,165, the largest for some years. More than half of this number were men time expired, pensioned, purchased, and invalided, most of whom will be eligible for entry in the new Reserve, and will probably join it.

During the past year directions have been given for the training in gunnery of the young officers Royal Marine Light Infantry to take place in the Gunnery School at Whale Island instead of at their Divisional Headquarters, in the same manner as the young officers Royal Marine Artillery, whereby uniformity of instruction is ensured.

A fuller recognition has been made of the eligibility of Marines for employment as Captains of Guns in H.M. Ships. A proportion of Marine Captains of Guns will in future be allowed in the complements of all Battleships and such First Class Cruisers as are Flagships ; and a new auxiliary rating of Second Captain of Gun has been established by Order in Council for men of the Marine Infantry with an additional allowance of one penny per diem while borne on ships' books for the duty.

Musketry.—Twenty per cent. of the men on shore qualified as marksmen, 75 per cent. reaching the next stage of efficiency.

Reserve of Officers.—During the past year attention was directed to the fact that no specific regulation existed under which Retired Marine Officers could be recalled for service in case of emergency. A scheme has been prepared for the creation of a "Reserve of Officers, Royal Marines." It makes all officers who voluntarily retire liable to serve in this Reserve, those already on the Retired List or who may be retired compulsorily having the option of joining if under fifty.

Reserve of Men.—Taking advantage of the powers given to the Admiralty by the Naval Reserve Act of 1900, to raise and keep up a new Division of Reserves in addition to the men already authorised under the Act of 1859, steps were taken to incorporate in the new force a reserve of Royal Marines, and the raising of this Reserve is now in course of operation.

NAVAL RESERVES.

Executive Officers.—The establishment is fixed at 1,500, and there are now borne 436 Lieutenants, 517 Sub-Lieutenants, and 547 Midshipmen. Vacancies for Executive Officers are filled up as soon as they occur. There are no vacancies at present, and 330 qualified candidates are on the list of applicants for appointment.

The total number of Executive Officers now on the Active List, who have served for twelve months or more in the Navy, or are now undergoing twelve months training, is 295, an increase of 28 since last year.

Engineers.—The establishment of Engineer Officers is fixed at 400, and is complete. There are 15 candidates on the list of applicants for appointments.

The Instructional Courses for Engineers in the Home Dockyards, commenced in 1898, have been continued. Three courses of six Officers have been held each year, and arrangements are now being made to increase the number to 18 Officers for each course, or a total of 54 per annum. 32 Officers have been through the courses, and they have been satisfactorily reported on for conduct and attention. These Officers appreciate the instruction and experience afforded.

Seamen.—On the 31st December last the total number of seamen borne, as compared with the numbers voted, was :—

Class.	Number Voted, 1900-1.	Numbers Borne.	
		31.12.00.	31.12.99.
Qualified Seamen - - - -	11,700	2,937	2,080
1st Class, old system - - - -		7,978	8,921
Seamen - - - - - -	11,300	4,218	3,406
2nd Class, old system - - - -		5,996	7,555
Totals - - - - -	23,000	21,129	21,962

	1900.		1899.
Numbers embarked for six months Naval training	784	..	980

The falling off in numbers borne and in those embarking for naval training is attributed to the unpopularity of this compulsory training, owing to insufficient pay as compared with what the men earn at their proper vocations (fishing, yachting, merchant ships, &c.), and the length of time required to serve, which interferes with their employment. Arrangements are being made to readjust the pay and to reduce the period of training from six to three months, which it is hoped will induce more men to embark. Further, this embarkation will not be compulsory, except as regards earning promotion and future pension, and men who do not qualify for promotion to "Qualified Seamen" will be allowed to re-enrol as "Seamen" for a second and third period of five years, which at present is not allowed. We regret this unavoidable diminution of the training period ; but it is believed that a readjustment of the system of instruction will go far to neutralise the loss of time.

The negotiations for the establishment of a branch of the Royal Naval Reserve in the North American Colonies, to which reference was made in last year's Statement, have been proceeded with, and 50 seamen from Newfoundland have been embarked in His Majesty's ships on the Station for six months training.

Firemen.—During the year 1900 there were 337 Firemen enrolled as compared with 544 in 1899, being a decrease of 207.

The numbers borne as compared with the numbers voted are :—

Borne, 31st December,	1900	3,530	..	Voted ..	3,600
,, ,,	1899	3,494	..	,, ..	3,500

Drill Ships and Batteries.—The process of replacing the old M.L. guns by modern Q.F. guns is being continued, and arrangements are in hand to supply several 5-in. B.L. (converted to Q.F.) and Maxim guns during the forthcoming financial year.

now under consideration, for transferring a large proportion of the instruction in gunnery from the Gunnery Schools to the seagoing Fleet, and for confining the further education in the Gunnery Schools to those seamen who show special aptitude, and who may, therefore, be selected for the advanced ratings of Captains of Guns and Captains of Turrets, or for the higher Torpedo ratings. There is no doubt but that the standard of proficiency in gunnery is steadily rising in the Navy. A large addition of practice ammunition for the Fleet was sanctioned in 1899, and a seagoing gunnery ship has been allotted to each of the Gunnery Schools, and will be attached as soon as ready.

NEW CONSTRUCTION.

There has been no relaxation of activity in shipbuilding and engineering operations generally during the past year, better progress having been made than in recent years with the ships under construction for the Royal Navy, and it is anticipated that the aggregate expenditure on new construction will closely approach the provision made in the Estimates, and will largely exceed that of any previous year.

The steps taken by the various contractors to increase the output of armour and machinery have begun to show their effect, and the rate of progress has greatly increased during the latter half of the year. This is especially the case with armour, the total output of which for Admiralty use in the present year will be from 45 to 50 per cent. greater than last year. The rate of delivery during the latter half of this year indicates that the new plant is now in effective working order. Moreover, a fifth firm has undertaken armour manufacture, and has advanced considerably with the necessary plant. The outlook in regard to the future supply of armour is, therefore, favourable.

The total output of new construction in the financial year now drawing to a close will probably exceed that of 1899–1900, which was previously the greatest on record, by about a million.

Battleships.

The *Glory* has been completed and commissioned. The *Albion* has been delivered, and has commenced her trials, but I regret to say that defects in her machinery have been discovered which have postponed her completion.

The *Vengeance*, the last ship of the *Canopus* class, has been detained at Barrow in consequence of an accident to the entrance of the dock in which the ship was being completed. It is now reported that the works on the dock entrance are being rapidly pushed forward, and that they will probably be sufficiently advanced to permit the ship to pass out during April. Her trials and completion will be accelerated as much as possible after delivery.

The six battleships of the *Formidable* class, which were in hand in the dockyards at the beginning of the present financial year, have been considerably advanced, and two similar ships (the *Queen* and *Prince of Wales*) have been commenced. The *Implacable* has commenced her steam trials, and will be practically completed by the end of the financial year; her gunnery trials will probably be made rather later. It is anticipated that the *Formidable* and *Irresistible* will be completed early in the next financial year, and the *Bulwark* about December next. The *London* and *Venerable* will probably be finished about May, 1902.

The six vessels of the *Duncan* class have also been well advanced. Of the four building by contract, the *Russell* has been launched and the *Duncan* will be launched on 21st March, and the other two are very nearly in the same stage of progress. The *Albemarle* and *Montagu*, building in the dockyards, are to be launched on 5th March. All these vessels should be completed in 1902–3.

Armoured Cruisers.

Twenty vessels are now in course of construction; six of the *Cressy* class, four of the *Drake* class, and ten of the *Monmouth* class.

The *Cressy* has been delivered within the contract date, and has satisfactorily completed her steam trials, exceeding her estimated maximum speed by nearly half a knot. Satisfactory preliminary trials have been made with the new type of mounting for her 9·2-in. guns, and the ship is now being prepared for service. Her gunnery trials will be carried out early in the next financial year.

The *Sutlej* has been delivered and the *Aboukir* will be delivered during the present financial year. Both ships will be made ready for trials immediately.

The completion of the *Hogue* at Barrow has been delayed by the same accident that has affected the delivery of the *Vengeance.* The Contractors are now making special arrangements to press forward the work on the ship.

The *Bacchante* has been launched, and the *Euryalus* is the only vessel of the class remaining on the building slips. Her launch has been deferred in consequence of the accident to the dock entrance at Barrow.

One vessel of the *Drake* class (the *Good Hope*) has been launched, and the *Drake* is to be launched before the present financial year closes. Equally satisfactory progress has not been made hitherto on the other two vessels of this class building by contract, but the contractors have been urged to make greater efforts, and have undertaken to do so.

Four of the vessels of the *Monmouth* class which were commenced last year have been considerably advanced. The first of these (the *Kent*) will have been launched before the close of the financial year, and two others will probably be launched about May next, and the fourth about August.

The remaining six vessels have been commenced recently, and the work on them will be advanced, before the present financial year closes, to a stage which will enable rapid progress to be made on them next year.

It will be seen from the above that four battleships and four armoured cruisers are expected to be launched during the last two months of this financial year.

Protected Cruisers.

The contractors' steam trials of the First Class cruiser *Spartiate* were not satisfactory, and the completion of the ship has been delayed by the necessity for replacing a condemned crank shaft.

The two Second Class cruisers of improved *Hermes* type (*Challenger* and *Encounter*), referred to in the statement of last year, have been commenced in the Dockyards. They are not sheathed with wood and copper, and are about a knot faster than the *Hermes* class. One of these vessels is to be fitted with Babcock and Willcox boilers.

Only one Third Class cruiser (the *Pandora*) has been in hand during the year. Her steam trials have still to be completed, but it is anticipated she will be practically ready for service at the close of the present financial year.

Sloops and Gunboats.

Eight sloops have been under construction during the year, six in the Dockyards and two by contract. The delivery of the latter has been considerably delayed, and they will not be completed as was anticipated this financial year. Two of the dockyard-built vessels will be completed this year, and two others will be finished next summer, when the contract-built ships should also be finished.

The remaining two vessels (*Odin* and *Merlin*) have been commenced at Sheerness during the present year.

Two gunboats of extremely light draught (the *Teal* and *Moorhen*) have been begun this year and are now well advanced. The work has been hindered by difficulties with material for boiler tubes, but it is anticipated that the vessels will be finished early in the next financial year.

Torpedo Boat Destroyers.

The total number of vessels in this class is now 113. Forty-two have trial speeds of 26 to 27 knots, and the whole of these have been completed and accepted. Four of this type, which were originally completed with locomotive boilers, have now been fitted with water-tube boilers, and the whole of the 113 Torpedo Boat Destroyers now have water-tube boilers of the small tube or *Express* type.

Of the 30-knot vessels 58 have been delivered, of which two have not yet passed their trials, and the eight still remaining in the builders' hands are well advanced, one having passed her official trials and two others being now under trial.

Of the five Destroyers with trial speeds of over 30 knots two have been delivered and have completed their trials, viz., the *Albatross*, which attained $31\frac{1}{2}$ knots speed on trial, and the *Viper*, fitted with Parsons' Steam Turbine, which attained on trial a speed of over $33\frac{3}{4}$ knots, combined with an almost entire absence of vibration. The *Cobra*, which has similar machinery to that in the *Viper*, was tried with a load on board largely in excess of that usually carried on speed trials by Destroyers, and maintained for three hours a speed slightly above 30 knots.

A fourth vessel, of 32 knots speed, is expected to commence her preliminary steam trials about June next.

The fifth vessel (of 33 knots contract speed) has undergone a very long series of trials with propellers of varying dimensions, but the builders have not up to the present succeeded in attaining the guaranteed speed, and consequent delay in completion has resulted.

At the close of the financial year there will be 10 Destroyers ordered previously to 1900–1901 still undelivered, but five additional vessels, not included in the original Estimates for the year, were purchased under an additional Estimate while in course of construction, and these will be delivered this financial year.

Torpedo Boats.

The two Torpedo Boats of 25 knots trial speed, ordered in 1899, are well advanced. The first will shortly commence her preliminary trials. The further two of the same type ordered this year are also well advanced, and it is expected that all four will have been delivered and tried by September next.

Royal Yacht.

The alterations in this vessel which were mentioned as necessary in last year's Statement have been made, and she has satisfactorily completed her steam trials during the year. These trials included three of 48 hours each, one at 5,000 h.p., and two at 7,500 h.p., and one trial of eight hours at 11,000 h.p. All the trials were carried out with complete success, the engines working with great smoothness and an almost complete absence of vibration. The maximum speed obtained was $20\frac{1}{4}$ knots, instead of the 20 knots promised in the design; and on two occasions the vessel ran at a speed of about $18\frac{1}{2}$ knots for 48 hours continuously.

Experiments made since the alterations show that the vessel will have ample stability, and her behaviour during her trials when experiencing a very strong breeze and considerable sea was very satisfactory.

The work of completing her internal decoration and fittings is now in hand.

Fleet Auxiliaries.

The provision of fleet auxiliaries is under the careful consideration of the Board. Three colliers are now working with the Fleet; a repairing and distilling ship has been purchased and is now being fitted up; provision is made in the Estimates for another distilling ship and for a depot ship, while it is expected that the *Maine* will, with the kind assistance of the Committee of American ladies and the owner, be secured for service as a hospital ship in the Mediterranean during the ensuing summer.

Royal Naval Reserved Merchant Cruisers.

During the year a new arrangement has been made with nearly all the great steamship companies, by which their finest vessels are held at the disposition of the Admiralty for employment as Armed Cruisers when required. Under the previous agreements only the Cunard, White Star, Peninsular and Oriental, and Canadian Pacific Railway Companies were included. To these have now been added the Orient, Royal Mail, and Pacific Companies. Eighteen of the largest and swiftest passenger steamers belonging to these companies will receive an annual subvention, and thirty steamers in addition are held at the disposition of the Admiralty without further subsidy. In the main features the new agreements will be similar to former agreements, but in some particulars modifications have been made based on experience.

Experiments.

During the year a number of experiments have been made on armour plates with a view to improvements in manufacture, or to the selection of the quality of armour best adapted for particular services.

An important firing trial was also carried out against H.M.S. *Belleisle*, and much valuable information was obtained which will be of service in future naval construction.

Submarine Boats.

Five submarine vessels of the type invented by Mr. Holland have been ordered, the first of which should be delivered next autumn.

What the future value of these boats may be in naval warfare can only be a matter of conjecture. The experiments with these boats will assist the Admiralty in assessing their true value. The question of their employment must be studied, and all developments in their mechanism carefully watched by this country.

MACHINERY AND BOILERS.

Between the preparation of last year's Statement and 31st March, 1900, the battleship *Glory* and the sloop *Condor* completed their contractors' trials, and the former vessel is now on the China station.

The following vessels have completed their contract steam trials during the present financial year :—

First Class Cruiser.—*Cressy*. Sloops.—*Vestal* and *Shearwater*. Torpedo Boat Destroyers.—16 in number. Royal Yacht.—*Victoria and Albert*.

In addition, the battleships *Albion*, *Implacable*, the First Class cruiser *Spartiate*, the Third Class cruiser *Pandora*, the sloop *Mutine*, and four Torpedo Boat Destroyers have commenced their trials.

The battleships *Bulwark* and *Formidable* and armoured cruiser *Sutlej* will be ready for trials early in the next financial year.

The Third Class cruiser *Blanche* has been reboilered, the double-ended cylindrical boilers being replaced by water-tube boilers of the small-tube type. She has completed her trials satisfactorily, and is now on foreign service. The sister vessel *Blonde* is now in hand for similar alterations.

The Torpedo Gunboats *Niger* and *Gossamer* are being re-engined and re-boilered with small-tube water-tube boilers; associated with light, quick-running engines. This is following on a similar course to that adopted last year with *Skipjack* and *Speedwell*, and provides an increase in the I.H.P. developed in the vessels from 3,500 to 6,000.

The Torpedo Boat Destroyers *Havock*, *Hasty*, and *Charger*, have had their locomotive boilers replaced by small-tube water-tube boilers, and the *Havock* has satisfactorily completed her trials with the new boilers.

The Torpedo Gunboat *Seagull*, recently fitted with water-tube boilers of the Niclausse type, has satisfactorily completed an exhaustive series of sea-going trials similar to those carried out in the *Sharpshooter* (Belleville) and *Sheldrake* (Babcock and Wilcox) during the preceding year.

These comparative trials in three similar ships have furnished valuable information regarding the different types of boilers; and as a result it has been decided to continue them on a larger scale, and boilers of the Babcock and Wilcox pattern have accordingly been ordered for the new Second Class Cruiser *Challenger* and the sloop *Odin*; the sloop *Espiègle* was ordered to be fitted with these boilers in 1899–1900, and she will be ready to commence her steam trials early in the ensuing financial year; and Niclausse boilers are to be fitted in the First Class Cruiser *Suffolk* and in the sloop *Merlin*.

The Second Class Cruisers *Highflyer* (Belleville Boilers) and *Minerva* (cylindrical boilers) carried out a series of comparative trials, the results of which were embodied in a Parliamentary Return.

The Boiler Committee appointed by Lord Goschen commenced their sittings in September last, but their experiments have not been concluded. The *Minerva* and the Second Class Cruiser *Hyacinth* (Belleville boilers) have been placed at the disposal of the Boiler Committee for comparative experiments. The *Minerva's* trials have commenced.

At the special request of the Board, an *ad interim* report has just been presented by the Committee in reply to certain specific questions specially addressed to it. This report will be laid before Parliament, and all outstanding orders for boilers will be immediately reconsidered, and, if necessary, revised in the light of the information afforded by this report.

The Torpedo Boat Destroyers *Viper* and *Cobra*, whose propelling machinery is of the turbine type, have completed their contract trials, obtaining high speeds. They will be further tested on service as soon as practicable. There are still many points connected with this system of propulsion which require experimental investigation.

DOCKYARDS.

Satisfactory progress has, on the whole, been made during the current year on New Construction in the Dockyards. It is anticipated that, despite some delays which have occurred in deliveries of armour and work on propelling machinery, and the large amount of repairing work performed on ships in Reserve, the amounts voted for labour and issue of ordinary materials, will in almost every respect be fully realised. Every endeavour is being made to attain this result.

The number of men employed in the Dockyards has been gradually increased during the year to meet the additional work thrown on them by the growth of the Fleet.

The number of workmen borne in the Home Dockyards on the 1st April, 1900, and on the 1st January, 1901, are as follows:—

April, 1900 - - - - - - -	28,833
January, 1901 - - - - - - -	30,330
Increase - - - - - - - -	1,497

This increased number includes about 690 Dockyard and Naval Artificer Apprentices who were entered in July, 1900.

Large Repairs during 1900–1901 at Home Dockyards.

The following ships have been or will be completed in the Yards :—

Amphion.
Anson.
Beagle.
Blanche.
Camperdown.
Eclipse.
**Garnet.*
Grafton.
Harrier.
Hawke.
Hazard.
Hebe.
Hood.
Hussar.
Immortalite.
Imperieuse.
Iphigenia.
Lapwing.
Narcissus.
Nymphe.
Pallas.
Pegasus.
Rattler.
Revenge.
**Ruby.*
Sparrow.
Talbot.
**Tourmaline.*

* Converting into Coal Hulks.

The following ships are now in hand, or their refit will be commenced during 1900–1901 :—

Barrosa.
Blonde.
Doris.
Europa.
Fearless.
Hecate.
Hermes.
Leander.
Melpomene (if decided to proceed with Refit).
Peacock.
Pearl.
Pheasant.
Powerful.
Swallow.
Venus.

The details of the Repairs and Refits to be carried out in 1901–1902 appear in the Appendix to the Navy Estimates. The principal items of work to be undertaken in this section are :—

**Audacious.*
Barfleur.
Centurion.
Howe.
**Invincible.*
Mohawk.
Porpoise.
Spider.
Tartar.
Undaunted,

* Conversion into bases for Torpedo Boat Destroyers.

New Shipbuilding Programme.

We propose to lay down in the coming financial year—

3 Battleships.
6 Armoured Cruisers,
2 Third Class Cruisers.
10 Torpedo Boat Destroyers.
5 Torpedo Boats.
2 Sloops.
5 Submarine Boats (ordered and work commenced in 1900).

Of these 2 Battleships, 1 Armoured Cruiser, and 2 Sloops will be built in the Royal Dockyards. The rest will be built by Contract.

The total Vote proposed for New Construction is £9,003,256, of which £8,465,406 will be devoted to pushing forward the ships already in hand to the utmost of our power and to work on the submarine boats, and £537,850 to start work on the additional ships to be commenced. The object aimed at in this distribution of the money is to advance the work on the many ships now under construction as far as possible towards completion, and to place the ships to be newly commenced into such a position that the utmost possible amount of work can be put into them in 1902–3.

The arrears in the delivery of hulls, armour-plates, guns, gun-mountings, and machinery has been a continual source of anxiety equally to the last and the present Board. The financial position of Messrs. Maudslay and of Messrs. Earle greatly contributed to the difficulties experienced in the deliveries of machinery. A Committee has been appointed to thoroughly investigate the causes of the arrears in every case, and to advise how a recurrence of the evil can best be obviated. The Committee consists of Mr. H. O. Arnold-Forster, M.P., Rear-Admiral A. K. Wilson, C.B., V.C., Sir Thomas Sutherland, G.C.M.G., and Sir Francis Evans, K.C.M.G.

NAVAL ORDNANCE.

The amount required under the Naval Ordnance Vote is larger than the original Vote for 1900–1901 by £915,000. An additional Estimate of £753,200 was, however, taken under this Vote during the year, so the net increase over 1900–1901 is £161,800.

A sum of £420,000 is included in the Estimate in practical completion of the policy of increasing the reserves of guns and ammunition.

Provision is also included for the continuation of the issue of armour-piercing shell to the Fleet.

Deliveries of the new design of 12-in. B.L. wire gun have been made, and these guns are now mounted in the Battleships of the Formidable Class.

Some delay has occurred in the completion of the new 9·2 in. B.L. Guns, as the trial of the first gun showed that a slight modification of design was necessary. Deliveries are, however, now being made, the first two guns having been mounted in H.M.S. *Cressy*, and it is hoped that the guns for succeeding ships will be ready by the time they are required.

A new gun of 7·5-in. calibre has been tried satisfactorily, and has been approved.

A 5-in. B.L. gun has been converted to take the Welin breech screw, and the design has been approved.

Progress is being made each year with the re-armament of the Fleet with ·303-in. Maxims in lieu of the older patterns of machine guns.

Telescopic sights have been adopted for Q.F. guns, and the supply is proceeding.

A new design of mounting for the 9·2-in. gun has been tried during the past year with very satisfactory results.

As the result of experience gained in South Africa and China some modifications and additions are being made to the seamen's equipment for service on shore.

Wireless telegraph apparatus has been obtained and supplied to a certain number of ships at home and abroad.

NEW WORKS.

WORKS PROVIDED IN ESTIMATES.

Chatham.—Good progress has been made with the New Building Slip, Shops, &c. The New Foundry will be completed early in next financial year.

Portsmouth.—Very satisfactory progress has been made with the New Smithery connected with it, and it is expected the work will be completed during next financial year.

Devonport.—Good progress has been made with the New Building Slip; the Shops will be commenced shortly.

Pembroke.—A contract has been made for the New Smithery, and considerable progress has been made. It is expected that the work will be completed in 1901–1902.

Bermuda.—A contract has been made for the supply of the ironwork to be sent from England for the Bridge between Somerset and Watford Islands. The excavation of a berth for the floating dock at Bermuda will probably not be completed till 1902.

Dredging.—The deepening of French Creek at Malta has been progressing, and a considerable amount of dredging has been done at Wei-hai-Wei.

Coaling Depots.—A new Subhead has been introduced into Vote 10 in connection with coaling arrangements generally at Home and Abroad. Good progress is being made with the works already started at Chatham.

Hospitals.—Progress continues to be made with the work of providing additional and improved Hospital accommodation at Home and Abroad.

Naval Armaments.—The torpedo range at Portland is expected to be practically finished by the end of next financial year; the contract for the pier is nearly completed, and one for the superstructure has recently been made.

PROGRESS UNDER NAVAL WORKS LOAN ACTS.

Chatham.—Dock. A contract has been made, and the work is well in hand.

Colombo.—The new Dock at this Station is in hand, being built by the Colonial Government.

Malta.—Dockyard Extension. Tenders for this contract are under consideration. Dredging on sites of Wharf and Breakwater preparatory to their construction has been in progress for some time.

Dartmouth.—Britannia Royal Naval College. A contract for the main building and sick quarters has been made. Much work has been done in making roads, &c.

Magazines.—Work is progressing satisfactorily; that at Portsmouth in particular being in an advanced condition. The scheme at Chatham comprises an entirely new establishment.

Hospitals.—The Infectious Hospital at Haulbowline is completed, and Haslar Hospital will be completed in 1901–1902.

Inclosure and Defence of Harbours.

Gibraltar.—The Admiralty Mole Extension was brought up to water-level throughout its whole length by 30th September, 1898. The Quay Wall on the Harbour side of the Mole has been brought up to coping level for a distance of 2,358 feet. New Coal Sheds 750 feet in length have been completed on the Mole. The Detached Mole has been completed except portions of the upper structure and the round heads at the north and south extremities. On the Commercial Mole the reclamation and wharf wall are finished, and a portion of the new wharf has been opened for traffic. The Northern Arm is well advanced, and the Viaduct and Western Arm are well in hand.

Portland.—The whole of the new Breakwater was brought up to water-level on the 17th April, 1899, and the work is being increased to the full section. The facing of a portion of the Breakwater has been commenced.

Dover.—Admiralty Pier Extension.—The excavation for the foundation has been executed for about 450 feet, and block setting is in progress. The foundation course has been laid for a length of 440 feet, and the blockwork has been completed for a length of 260 feet at low water level. The work at the junction with the existing Pier Head has been carried up to within two courses of low water.

East Reclamation.—The wall is now practically complete to cope level for a length of about 1,250 feet. Considerable progress has been made with the filling at the back of the wall, and the Eastern half of the Blockyard is now being laid out.

East Arm and Root Wall.—Ten Bays of the East Arm temporary Staging have now been completed. Two goliaths, one 60 tons and one of 40 tons, are in use on this staging, and a second machine for 40 ton loads is in course of erection. About 400 feet of the foundations have been completed in the Root Wall, and about 100 feet of the East Arm above low-water level; a considerable quantity of concrete-in-mass has been deposited, and some of the Root Wall blocks have been set.

Adapting Naval Ports to Present Needs of Fleet.

Deepening Harbours and Approaches.—The dredging is finished at Chatham and Haulbowline. The dredging of Portsmouth Harbour is still in progress. The removal of the Vanguard, Rubble Bank, and Cremyll Shoals at Devonport is completed. The dredging above Saltash Bridge is in hand.

Keyham Dockyard Extension.—Graving Dock No. 4.—Side and end walls are complete. Excavation between the side walls is practically completed. Concreting under the floor is completed for a length of 375 feet.

Graving Dock, No. 5.—Excavation of rock is nearly completed, and setting of granite floor stones has been commenced.

Graving Dock, No. 6.—Good progress is being made in the excavation of the rock.

Entrance Lock.—The west wall is built to underside of coping for a length of 300 feet, and for the remaining length to level of 8 feet below coping. On site of floor and east wall the mud is being removed.

Closed Basin.—The North Wall is nearly completed, East Wall is completed. A length of 640 feet of West Wall has been constructed up to levels varying from 38 feet to 15 feet below coping. Excavation for Caisson Camber at entrance is in progress. Excavation of mud on site of basin has been continued.

Tidal Basin.—East and South Walls, also South Arm at entrances, are completed.

Outer Wall.—The wall is in progress and has been built to level of 3 feet below coping for a length of 160 feet at South end.

Gibraltar Dockyard Extension.—The Reclamation is in progress; pile foundations are being driven, and the superstructures of the Chief Constructor's and Chief Engineer's shops are in hand. The excavation of the New Mole Parade and the retaining Walls have been completed. The excavation for No. 1 Dock is in progress. The dam for No. 3 Dock is finished; the enclosed area is pumped dry, and the excavation is in progress.

Hong Kong.—The Contractors have commenced the work of constructing the dock, reclaiming land, providing wharf walls and a basin, and erecting additional shops.

Simon's Bay Dockyard Extension.—A tender has been accepted for this work. The necessary land has been acquired, and the houses on the property are being converted into quarters.

Naval Barracks, &c.

Chatham Naval Barracks.—The West Block of the Seamen's Quarters is nearly completed, and the two remaining blocks are well in hand. The Officers' Mess and the North and South Blocks of Officers' Quarters are approaching completion.

Sheerness Naval Barracks.—The proposal to build new barracks for the Gunnery School at Sheerness has been abandoned, as the only available site was found on examination to be unsuitable on sanitary grounds. Negotiations for a site at Chatham are in progress.

Portsmouth Naval Barracks.—The War Office have transferred the Anglesea Barracks and have arranged for the transfer of further land required on the site of the Military Hospital. One block of Seamen's Quarters is up to roof level; the second block is up to second-floor level, and the third block has been commenced.

Keyham Naval Barracks.—The Eastern block of Seamen's Quarters is practically finished; the western block is nearly finished. The Officers' Mess and Quarters are roofed in.

Chatham Naval Hospital.—The work is in hand, and some of the buildings are up to first-floor level.

A Naval Works Loan Bill to provide during the next two years for certain new works and for the expenditure on works already authorised will shortly be introduced.

SELBORNE.

1st March 1901

APPENDIX II.

PUBLIC BILLS

DEALT WITH IN VOLUME XCI.

Those marked thus * are Government Bills. The figures in parentheses in the last column relate to the page in this volume. "[H.L.]" following the title indicates that the Bill originated in the Lords.

(A.) HOUSE OF LORDS.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Berwickshire County Town [H.L.]	*Lord Balfour*	Committee, Report, 19 Mar. (369); Read 3ª 21 Mar. (667)
*County Courts (Ireland) [H.L.]	*Lord Ashbourne*	Read 2ª 15 Mar. (45)
Intoxicating Liquor (Sale to Travellers) [H.L.]	*Bishop of Winchester*	Read 2ª 21 Mar. (642)
Licensing Board [H.L.]	*Earl of Camperdown*	Read 1ª 18 Mar. (215)
Licensing Law Amendment [H.L.]	*Lord Windsor*	Read 1ª 26 Mar. (1266)
Military Instruction (Schools and Cadets) [H.L.]	*Viscount de Montmorency*	Read 1ª 25 Mar. (1063)
Polling Arrangements (Parliamentary Boroughs) [H.L.]	*Lord Ribblesdale*	Read 1ª 21 Mar. (639)
Polling Districts (County Councils) [H.L.]	*Lord Ribblesdale*	Read 1ª 21 Mar. (639)
Prevention of Corruption [H.L.]	*Lord Alverstone*	Read 1ª 22 Mar. (834)
*Prisons (Scotland) [H.L.]	*Lord Balfour*	Read 2ª 19 Mar. (366)
Public Libraries [H.L.]	*Lord Windsor*	Read 2ª 18 Mar. (211); Committee, 25 Mar. (1063)

(B.) HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by.	Progress.
Aged Pensioners	*Mr. Goulding*	Read 1º 22 Mar. (929)
*Army (Annual)	*Mr. Brodrick*	Read 1º 25 Mar. (1155)
Beer	*Mr. Purvis*	Read 2º 27 Mar. (1441)
*Berwickshire County Town [H.L.]	—	Read 1º 22 Mar. (882)
Burial Grounds (Loans) (Scotland)	*Capt. Sinclair*	Read 1º 15 Mar. (129)

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Consolidated Fund (No. 1)	*Sir M. Hicks Beach*	Read 1° 25 Mar. (1263); Read 2° 26 Mar. (1387); Com. 27 Mar. (1441)
County Justices' Clerks	*Mr. Lloyd Morgan*	Read 1° 22 Mar. (928)
Cremation [H.L.]	—	Read 1° 19 Mar. (422)
Crofters' Holdings (Scotland)	*Mr. Cathcart Wason*	Read 1° 19 Mar. (426)
Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Act (1886) Amendment	*Mr. Weir*	Read 1° 15 Mar. (129)
*Demise of Crown	*Sir Rt. Finlay*	Read 1° 25 Mar. (1126)
*Electric Lighting (London)	*Mr. Gerald Balfour*	Read 1° 26 Mar. (1387)
Foreigners' Marriages	*Mr. Macdona*	Read 1° 19 Mar. (426)
Home Industries	*Mr. Charles Douglas*	Read 1° 26 Mar. (1387)
Housing of the Working Classes	*Dr. Macnamara*	Read 1° 19 Mar. (425); Withdrawn 22 Mar. (881)
Housing of the Working Classes and Rating	*Dr. Macnamara*	Read 1° 26 Mar. (1386)
*Isolation Hospitals	*Mr. Walter Long*	Read 1° 21 Mar. (743)
Libel	*Sir John Willox*	Read 1° 15 Mar. (128)
Local Authorities Officers' Superannuation	*Major Rasch*	Read 1° 22 Mar (929)
Military Instruction (Schools and Cadets)	*Sir J. Kennaway*	Read 1° 19 Mar. (425)
Old Age Pensions (No. 5)	*Mr. Bousfield*	Read 1° 20 Mar. (632)
Registration of Clubs	*Mr. Caine*	Read 1° 19 Mar. (427)
Registration of Firms	*Mr. Emmott*	Read 1° 22 Mar. (929)
Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children	*Mr. Crombie*	Read 2° 20 Mar. (565)
School Board Electorate (Scotland)	*Mr. Weir*	Read 1° 15 Mar. (128)
Sites Values (London) Rating	*Mr. Sydney Buxton*	Read 1° 19 Mar. (426)
*Summary Jurisdiction (Ireland)	*Mr. Atkinson*	Read 1° 19 Mar. (427)
Weights and Measures	*Mr. Bousfield*	Read 1° 20 Mar. (631)

APPENDIX III.

HOUSE OF COMMONS. SESSION 1901.

LIST OF RULES, ORDERS, &c., which have been presented during the Session, and are required by Statute to lie for an appointed number of Days upon the Table of the House.

[*Continuation of List given in preceding Volume.*]

Title of Paper.	Date from which the Period runs.	Period to lie upon the Table.
Board of Education,—Copy of Revised Regulations of the 21st March, 1901, as to certificates of Age, Proficiency, and School Attendance [39 and 40 Vic., c. 79, s. 24]	25 March	One month
Inebriates Acts, 1879 to 1899 (Rules for Retreats), —Copy of Rules for Retreats licensed under the Inebriates Acts, 1879 to 1899, dated 28th February, 1901, approved by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in substitution for the Rules dated 18th October, 1900 [61 and 62 Vic., c. 60, s. 21 (1)]	26 March	4 weeks (whilst the House is sitting)
Land Transfer Act, 1897,—Copy of Order in Council of 9th March, 1901, postponing the operation of the Land Transfer Order in Council of 18th July, 1898, as regards the city of London until the 1st January, 1902 [60 and 61 Vic., c. 65, s. 20 (9)]	26 March	40 days
Factory and Workshop Acts (Manufacture of Earthenware and China),—Copy of Amended Special Rules for the Manufacture of Earthenware and China [58 and 59 Vic., c. 37, s. 28 (1)]	27 March	40 days
Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899,—Copy of Amending General Order for the Regulation of Proceedings under and in pursuance of The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899 (62 and 63 Vic., c. 47, s. 15 (3)]	27 March	One month

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[AUTHORISED EDITION].

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